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By Mil Mascaras

**GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR:  
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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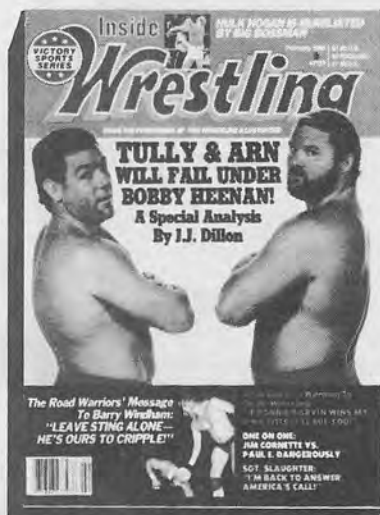


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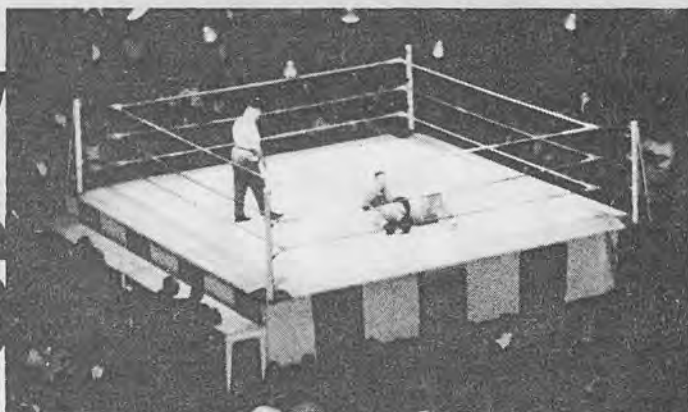
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# SINCERELY YOURS



## MEGATEAM II?

If Sting and The Ultimate Warrior were to reunite, like it was proposed in the article in your July 1989 issue ("Megapowers II? It's Time For Ultimate Warrior And Sting To Re-unite!"), it would be the best thing to happen to this sport since the formation of the Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage Megapowers team.

Sting and the Warrior could win the WWF, NWA, and AWA World tag team titles all by themselves. They'd surely dominate tag team wrestling like no team before them. The biggest question would seem to be whether Sting should decide to come to the WWF or the Warrior to the NWA, but it doesn't really matter which federation they'd choose to compete in, because they'd be unstoppable.

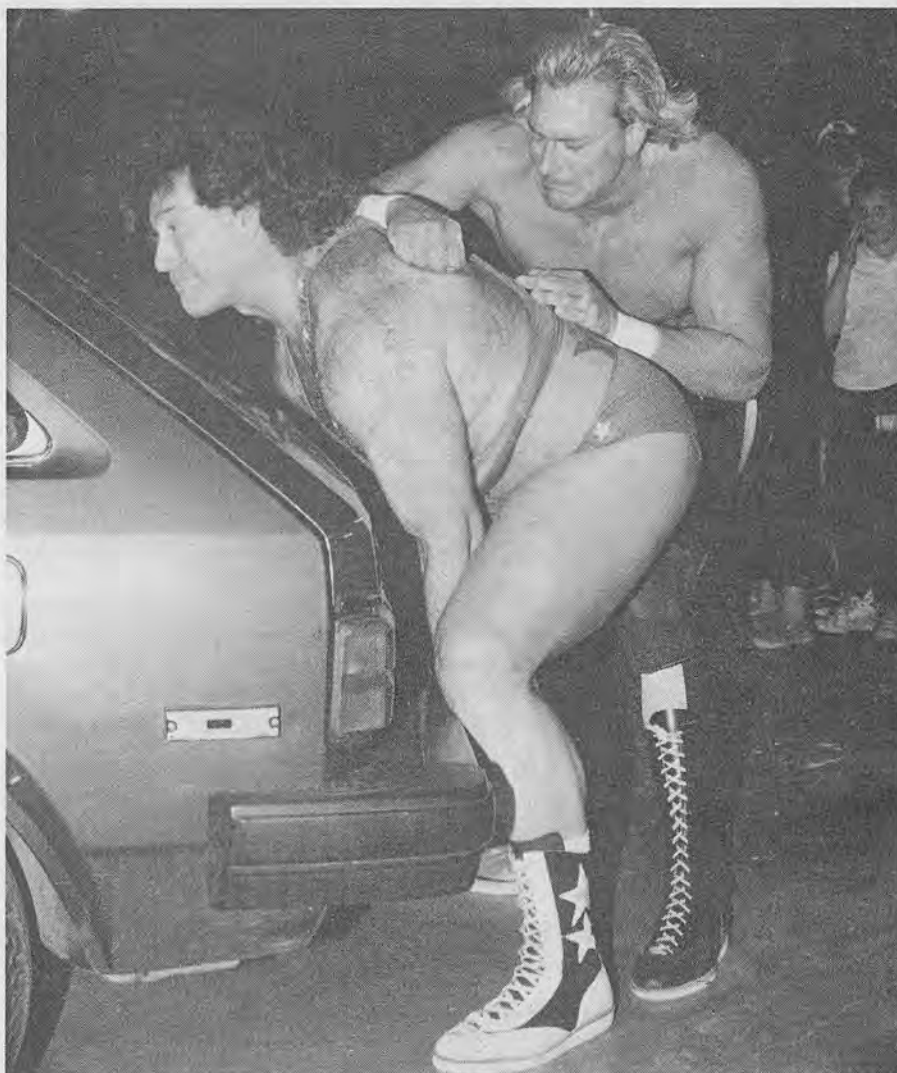
These two superstars should definitely reunite for the sake of wrestling. Separately, they're great, but there's no goal they couldn't achieve together!

CHRIS TOMLIN  
Captiva, FL

## PHONY CHALLENGE

I once had a lot of respect for Ken Patera, but after that car-lifting challenge he had with Wayne Bloom on ESPN, I'm not so sure about him anymore.

If you didn't see it, the challenge (made by Bloom) was conducted under powerlifting rules, but neither Bloom nor his partner, Mike Enos, knew that beforehand. Each man was allowed three lifts, with the man lifting the most weight winning. The car was a compact, and there were six 45-pound plates ready to be added to the back of



Wayne Bloom attacks Ken Patera during their car-lifting challenge. Despite Bloom's assault, reader Brian Donmore thinks Patera is at fault because he knew the rules of the contest beforehand and Bloom didn't.

the car.

On Bloom's three lifts, he lifted the car with no added weight, with two 45-pound plates, and with four plates. Under the rules, Patera passed on the first two lifts, so he only had one lift. He decided to lift the car with all six plates added on.

That infuriated Bloom. So as Patera

attempted the lift, he and his partner, Brad Rheingans, were attacked by Bloom, Enos, and their manager Johnny Valiant. Both Patera and Rheingans were pretty badly hurt.

I don't usually support this type of violence, but I really can't blame Bloom and the others for losing their tempers. Patera forced these rules



upon them at the last minute. As a veteran powerlifter, Patera set up the rules in his favor. He wasn't totally above board. For that reason, I've lost all respect for the man.

BRIAN DONMORE  
South Bend, IN

### POWERFUL BUT DUMB

Oh, sure, Warlord and Barbarian may think they'll be able to defeat Demolition, but like it said in the July 1989 issue ("Demolition vs. Powers Of Pain: World Champions Of Violence!"), these aren't exactly the brightest guys in the world. If they were, they surely wouldn't have chosen that worthless Mr. Fuji as their manager!

Fuji will now do for the Powers what he *didn't* do for Ax and Smash. I've never seen a manager without at least an inkling about what's going on, but Fuji is about to change my opinion. Everything he touches turns to pure manure.

Every man Fuji ever managed has gone straight into career oblivion. And the one time when he did manage champions—Demolition—he turned against them during one of the most important matches in their careers. What a tactical master this guy is!

Mark my words. With Fuji at the helm, the Powers will soon join The

Conquistadors and The Young Stallions as WWF also-rans. That Japanese jerk just doesn't have a clue.

TOMMY HARRIS  
New York

### A CHANGED MAN?

I'm intrigued by the "Hotseat" interview with Barry Windham in the July 1989 issue. Was it just me, or was this a slightly softer, more considerate Windham that was answering the questions? He didn't seem like the arrogant braggart we've all come to know and hate.

I think if you read between the lines of that conversation, you'd see that the scientific Windham—the *real* Windham—is dying to return to the forefront. He may have been the U.S. champion, but everything else Windham has attempted to do since turning rulebreaker has been a complete failure.

Soon after he joined The Four Horsemen, the organization disbanded. After joining Hiro Matsuda's band of mercenaries, he broke his hand and lost the U.S. title to Lex Luger. I haven't seen much of Barry since he lost the belt, but you can bet that he's pondering his future right now. I think he's ready to get rid of Matsuda and return to the style that made him one of the greatest wrestlers in the world.



Barry Windham puts Sting in the abdominal stretch. Reader Ann Peterson suspects that Windham would like to abandon his roughhousing style and wrestle scientifically again.

After all, the interview said he wanted to wrestle Ric Flair, didn't it?

Barry, if you *are* coming back to the scientific community, I want to let you know that you're doing the right thing.

(Continued on page 48)



Warlord gives Ax a shoulderbreaker as Barbarian awaits the tag. Reader Tommy Harris believes The Powers of Pain made a stupid move when they chose Mr. Fuji as their manager.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I received the following piece of mail from a fan recently, and it bothered me. It bothered me a lot.

"I think your family of magazines is great. Your features are insightful and the photos superb. But why can't the news and results be a little more current?"

Each time I receive a letter like this I try to explain that the nature of the magazine business makes it impossible to be more timely. It's the same problem that other monthly magazines, like Sport and Inside Sports, face. The process of printing and distributing magazines can take as long as six weeks.

But we recognize that there is a need for up-to-the-minute news and results, and it has always bothered us that we've been unable to accommodate our readers. Until now.

We are in the process of formulating what we believe will be the perfect supplement to our monthly magazines. It's called Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly and it will begin publication in September. This new publication will be in a newsletter format and will contain all the news, as it happens.

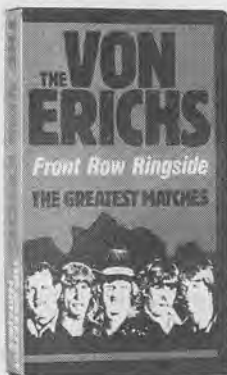
My purpose here, however, is not to sell you something. It's to ask for help. We need a few fans to be regular correspondents for PWI Weekly. But not just any fans. We need fans who go to their local matches regularly and will contact us immediately with news and results. We need reliable correspondents who are dedicated to making this project work. If you feel you are qualified, go to a card and send a sample report (along with your address and daytime phone number) to: Editor's Notebook, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Those chosen as correspondents will receive PWI Weekly free of charge.





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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David  
Rosenbaum**

**D**USTY RHODES wrestling in the WWF is like MacArthur fighting for the Germans. But, incredibly, after all this time, after all the potshots Dusty has taken at the WWF and all the steps the WWF has taken to get away from the type of wrestling the "American Dream" made famous, the two appear ready to come together.

I guess anything is possible.

In mid-May, word came that Rhodes had met with WWF officials and was on the verge of signing a contract that would bring him to the WWF by the beginning of the summer. I've been at *Inside Wrestling* since the spring of 1986 and nothing—including the deaths of Mike Von Erich, Adrian Adonis, and Bruiser Brody—shocked me more.

Call him pompous, call him an egomaniac, call him fat, obnoxious, and untalented, but for a very long time Dusty was the NWA. The fact that he came right out on TV and said it so many times probably rubbed people the wrong way, but let's face it: Isn't the "American Dream" the first thing we used to think of when the NWA was mentioned?

And it was this NWA, the NWA Dusty Rhodes ruled even when he wasn't World champion, that the WWF spent so much time and energy beating down over the past decade. The WWF went for looks, size, and style; Rhodes always had style, but he also had far too much substance. Nobody—except for an occasional crazed letter writer—ever called Rhodes a sex symbol.

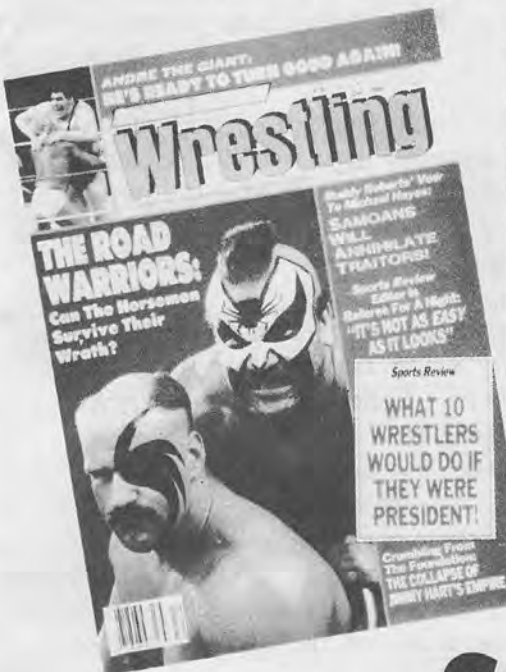
Of course, Rhodes has been in the WWF before (in the mid-'70s and into the early '80s), but things were different then. The war has

(Continued on page 52)



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VINCE McMAHON IS a hypocrite. Not for the usual reasons, either.

Frankly, I don't really care whether or not McMahon acknowledges that Ronnie Garvin was once NWA World champion, or that Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo are brothers. I'd prefer that he did, of course; for him not to do so seems silly, sort of like saying that once George Bush was elected President, Ronald Reagan never held the office. Even if you're not crazy about the events of the past, why go out of your way to deny what actually happened?

But that's not what's bothering me, and that's not what makes McMahon the most despicable individual in wrestling today. Consider:

On WWF broadcasts, and in WWF programs and publications, McMahon has wrestlers such as Jake Roberts, Ultimate Warrior, Tito Santana, Rick Martel, and others telling wrestling fans to "just say no to drugs."

Good sentiment. These days, probably the best (with the possible exception of "just say no to AK-47 automatic rifles").

So why is McMahon starring in a Miller Lite beer commercial?



Ventura and McMahon

And why has McMahon brought one of his most popular WWF stars, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, along with him? (Jesse's not totally absolved of blame here, either, but let's face it: McMahon heads the WWF, and what he says goes.)

Doesn't McMahon realize that alcohol is a drug?

How can he tell children to say no to drugs, then tell TV viewers to say yes to beer?

Hypocrite.

In McMahon's defense, I have to point out that I'm sure we won't be seeing a parade of beer commercials on WWF telecasts (just as you'll never see a beer or cigarette ad in *Inside Wrestling* or its sister publications).

Yet McMahon and Ventura, by their very visibility, influence opinion; that's obvious, for if they didn't, Miller Lite wouldn't want them to be their spokesmen.

McMahon ought to think a little harder about the fact that a large portion of his viewership is under the legal drinking age (21 in most states), and that these wrestling fans are going to be watching the other sporting events where his beer commercials *will* be aired. They will be

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

influenced. And if they're too young to actually go out and purchase beer, they're nevertheless receiving a troubling message about alcohol itself.

McMahon ought to think about Bubba Smith, who did a hugely popular series of Miller Lite commercials with Dick Butkus. Smith thought about his image, his popularity with kids, and the message they were receiving. He stopped doing the commercials.

A recent survey in our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* shows that 49.2 percent of our readers are under the age of 16; another 16.4 percent fall between the ages of 17 and 19. That's 65.6 percent of all readers under the age of 19, hardly the target audience for beer advertising.

I don't think it's unreasonable to assume that the percentages are roughly similar throughout wrestling, and that well over half of the wrestling fans in this country are under the legal drinking age.

I also have to assume that the readership/age percentages are roughly the same for McMahon's own monthly publication, which recently carried a four-page full-color feature on the Miller Lite commercial—effectively, a four-page full-color beer ad in a publication with a huge percentage of its readership under the legal drinking age.

Just say no to drugs?

Hypocrite.

Alcohol is most definitely a drug. That's a fact. It's a central nervous system depressant. It dulls sensations, impairs coordination and judgment, and can affect memory.

Another fact: One 12-ounce can of beer has the alcohol equivalency of a five-ounce glass of wine or a one-ounce shot of hard liquor like scotch or vodka. Think it's okay to drink a six-pack of beer but it's not okay to down six shots of gin? Think again; *it's the same thing*.

I wonder if McMahon would think twice about having himself and Ventura be the spokesmen for gin or bourbon in a TV commercial (that is, if TV commercials for hard liquor were still allowed on the air); I suspect that he would.

I wonder if McMahon would think twice about telling several hundred thousand kids under the legal drinking age that it's okay to go out and have a few shots of booze; I suspect that he would.

So why didn't he think twice about starring in a commercial that could potentially influence several hundred thousand kids' attitudes toward alcohol?

Money, probably. My guess is that Miller made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

And when it comes to money, McMahon is no hypocrite; he'll do *anything* for the right price. □

# Wrestling

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 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.  
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.  
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.  
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 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.  
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 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.  
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.  
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.  
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 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.  
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.  
 December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

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**February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.**  
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.  
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 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.  
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 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.  
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.  
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!  
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.  
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.  
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.  
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.  
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.  
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 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.  
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 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.  
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January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.  
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 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.  
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.  
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.  
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.  
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.  
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 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.  
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.  
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.  
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 April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.  
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.  
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.  
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.  
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.  
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.  
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.  
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.  
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 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.  
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.  
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.  
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.  
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.  
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.  
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.  
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.  
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.  
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.  
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 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.  
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 April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.  
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, *WrestleMania*, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.  
 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.  
 July 1989/*WrestleMania V*, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry.

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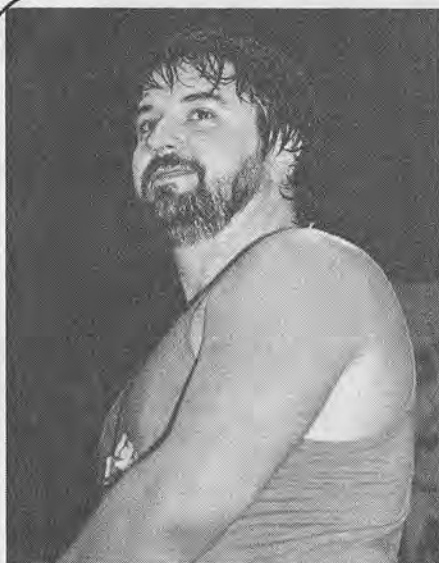
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# NAMES MAKI



**ERIC EMBRY**

**T**HE WAR BETWEEN **Eric Embry** and **Gen. Skandor Akbar** continues to grab headlines in the World Class area. In recent developments: Embry lost and regained the WCCW Texas title from **Zodiac**, World Class official **Frank Dusek** was reinstated but then viciously attacked by Akbar's **Devastation Inc.**, and Zodiac was unmasked and found to be **Gary Young**, who had been suspended by WCCW.



**FRANK DUSEK**

"It's getting a bit out of hand," Dusek said while speaking with reporters after being hospitalized with serious neck and back injuries. "When the inmates start controlling the prison, you've got a real problem, and that's what we have here."

The trouble reached a peak for Dusek on May 19 in Dallas when Embry wrestled Zodiac for the Texas title in a match officiated by **Harold T. Harris**. Zodiac used a small chain to knock out Embry, but Embry retrieved the chain, used it on Zodiac, and cov-



**AKBAR & HARRIS**

ered him for the pin. Harris, however, forced a break and accused Embry of bringing the chain into the ring. The referee confiscated the chain and placed it in his pocket.

The match continued and Zodiac tossed Embry into Harris, apparently knocking him unconscious. Then Zodiac dipped into Harris' pocket, pulled out the chain, smashed Embry, and covered him for the pin. Harris quickly recovered and made the three-count that gave Zodiac the belt. This brought out Dusek, who fired Harris on the spot.

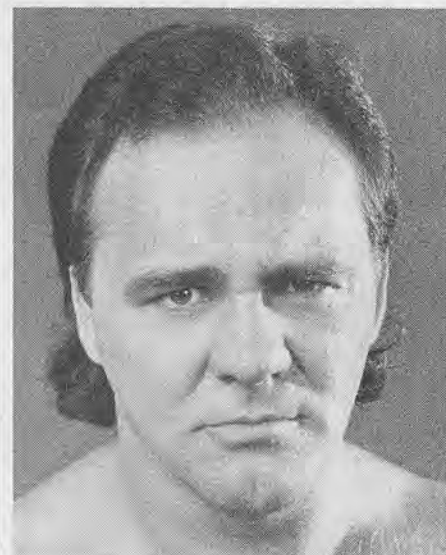
Less than 30 minutes later, Akbar introduced his new "sergeant at arms," **Harold T. Harris**. Out came Dusek again, who ordered Harris out of World Class. But Dusek was attacked by Akbar, Harris, **Iceman Parsons**, **Brickhouse Brown**, and **Cactus Jack** before Embry, **Percy Pringle**, **Steve Simpson**, and **Jeff Jarrett** came to his aid.

The World Class Board of Directors immediately ordered the title held up. The following week, Embry wrestled Zodiac in a hair vs. mask match. Embry won the match and the title and revealed Zodiac to be Young. The Board was set to ban Young for life, but Akbar's lawyers brought up the Embry precedent. Embry, of course, was also banned for life before Dusek allowed him back.

"I'll sue them all the way to the Supreme Court," Akbar vowed. Akbar got his wish and Young was allowed to stay.

"If I have my way," Dusek vowed, "Akbar and his men will be out of World Class very soon."

AWA World champion **Larry Zbyszko** once again defended his title in Florida and lost by disqualification to



**LARRY ZBYSZKO**

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

**Steve Keirn.** Zbyszko has also defended his title against **Mike Graham** in Florida. Closer to home, AWA TV champ **Greg Gagne** is the top contender to Zbyszko's title . . . Look for a new team called **The State Troopers** in the Stampede area . . . **Greg Wojokowski** was scheduled to take on boxer **Leon Spinks** on a June 25 World Wrestling Association card in Toledo, Ohio.

**Hulk Hogan** made dozens of special-education students very happy during a recent visit to an elementary school in New York City. The WWF World champion was chosen as the number-one hero of 100 children with



**HULK HOGAN & FRIENDS**

speech, hearing, or other learning disorders, and was asked to visit the school. Much to their surprise, Hogan agreed to appear, leading to a memorable day for both the children and the "Hulkster."

"I about started crying here," Hogan said after the children paid tribute to him and sang songs.

Principal **Shelly Cohen** was very impressed by Hogan. "I've never seen [the children] work so hard, learn as



**GREG GAGNE**

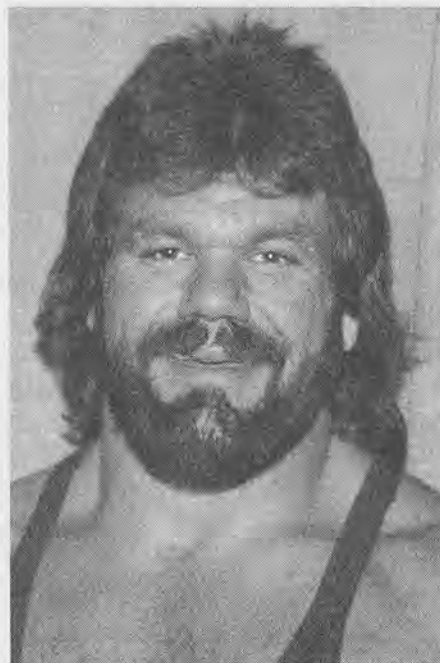
quickly, and be so intent to impress," Cohen said. "That's awesome power for one man to wield. If the sports heroes can remain true to their message, they can truly make a difference."

**Roddy Piper** is also getting involved with helping children. Piper, who returned recently to wrestle several WWF matches, is hoping to start a center for less-fortunate residents of Portland, Oregon. But first, he wants something in return. "I'll do this," Piper said, "if wrestling fans can help me raise \$50,000 so that one of my fans, **Darlene Hess** of Portland, can have a liver transplant." Donations may be sent to: Darlene Hess Liver Fund; West One Bank; 11050 S.E. McLaughlin; Box 22365; Milwaukie, Oregon, 97222.

Rumors are circulating that **Barry Windham** and **Mike Rotundo** could be returning to the WWF . . . ICW champ **Tony Atlas** has been defend-

ing his title against **Joe Savoldi** . . . **Chris Champion** and **Mark Starr** are teaming as **Wildside** in the CWA. They're feuding with CWA champ **Jeff Jarrett** and **Billy Travis**.

Hot news from Japan: Varsity Club member **Steve Williams** was attacked in a parking lot by **Terry Gordy** under overseas orders from **Kevin Sullivan**. "Williams didn't listen to orders and that's why we don't have the tag team belts anymore," Sullivan said, referring to Williams and



**STEVE WILLIAMS**

**Mike Rotundo** getting stripped of the NWA World tag team title. "If that's the way he wants things, then he'll have to pay the price." Williams has now broken his ties with Sullivan, who has apparently broken up **The Varsity Club**.

**Billy Jack Haynes** has announced his retirement. Haynes made a surprise visit to the Portland Sports Arena on May 27 and thanked his fans for their support. A special retirement party at the Sports Arena was planned.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □



THE

# INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

LAST MONTH, STU Saks began his column, "Editor's Notebook," with words that immediately revealed cracks in the firmament of his once-fine mind: "It's a good thing for Eddie Ellner that Dusty Rhodes is a gentleman." Buzz. Blip. Ring. An warning alarm shot to my head. It got worse.

"He hates Rhodes because he hates the way Rhodes looks. It's that simple. Ellner is a fitness fanatic. He works out regularly and eats the right foods. He enters triathlons, plays world-class racquetball ... To him, professional athletes have to look like professional athletes to be respectable.

"But that's just nonsense. The idea of athletic competition is to win. Nothing in the wrestling rulebook says that the competitors must all have the body of Lex Luger ..."

It goes on and on, *ad nauseum*. I've known Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks for five years. In that time, in whatever capacity I've had to deal with him, Stu has displayed a fairmindedness that must be commended and admired. As a journalist, Saks unearthed facts like a gravedigger; as an editor, he kept his thumb on the pulse of his reporters and his sport; as senior editor, Saks



Dusty Rhodes has for years been one of Eddie Ellner's favorite targets. Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks thinks Ellner hates Dusty because Dusty doesn't look like an athlete. Ellner thinks Saks doesn't know what he's talking about.

was a taskmaster, but a fair and gentle one.

It is with growing dejection I report that now, as our exalted editor-in-chief, Stu Saks' previously unassailable judgment has become dangerously impaired.

Editor-in-Chief Saks, like my other colleagues, is in a constant state of apprehension, fear, and

apoplexy each time a column of mine crusades to eliminate nauseating rats like Rhodes, Andre the Giant Idiot, Rick Morton, and Barry (Pandering Twit) Windham from the sport. Editorial meetings are convened, censorship arguments ensue, and stormy, near-riotous arguments invariably follow. In the

*(Continued on page 53)*



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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

**T**WO YEARS AGO, in a coffee shop off Hollywood Boulevard, Terry Funk squeezed his wife's hand, looked me in the eye, and declared, "You're gonna hear it from the source, in person. Terry Funk has wrestled his last match. When you refer to me, you may call me Terry Funk: businessman, or Terry Funk: actor. But please, don't call me a wrestler. I'm through with this business. Finished. Done."

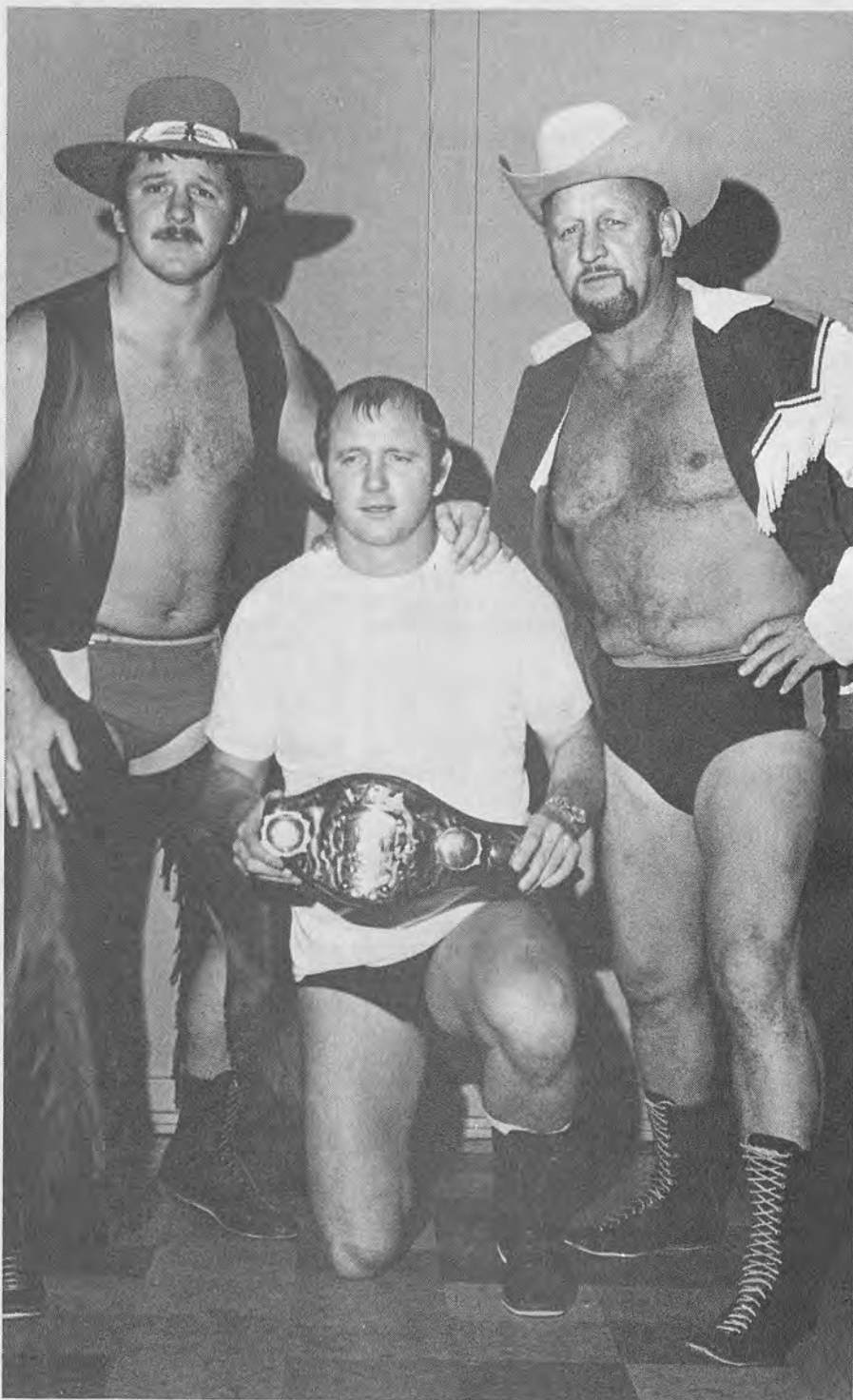
It was a startling announcement from the youngest member of what at one time was known as wrestling's most important family. In the '60s and early '70s, the Funk family (Dory Sr., his oldest son, Dory Jr., and Terry, then a wild and mean-spirited youngster) dominated the NWA. Dory Jr. held the NWA title from 1969 to 1973, while Dory Sr. and Terry savaged opponents around the country.

"They were the toughest three guys I ever met," said Blackjack Mulligan, head of his own formidable wrestling clan. "Dory Jr. could wrestle the pants off you, but the other two were in for the blood. I loved to mix it up with the Funks."

While the two Dorys lived and breathed the ring—they often sparred after their matches—Terry always maintained an interest in other fields of endeavor.

"Terry has a wanderlust," his father said shortly before his 1973 death. "I don't know why the boy can't be satisfied between the ropes. Everything I've got and ev-

*(Continued on page 50)*



When Dory Funk Jr. was the NWA World champion, he received a lot of moral and physical support from his brother Terry and his father Dory Sr. Now Terry is after that title, only months after he said he was through with the sport.

# BACK ISSUES OF

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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**June 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

**August 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blissie.

**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

**April 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

**June 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

**July 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**October 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

**January 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**February 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

**July 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**April 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**July 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

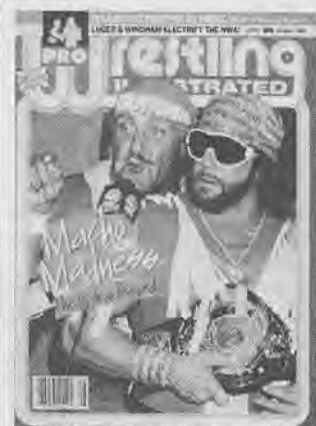
**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

**January 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.



AUGUST 1988

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

**December 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

**April 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

**June 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Arms, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

**July 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

**August 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

**November 1987/COLOR PINUP:** George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

**February 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sling.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

**October 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

**November 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

**December 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

**January 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

**February 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

**April 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

**May 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Missy Hyatt, Hogan, Ultimate, Kerry, Luger, Steamboat, 10 stars in limbo.

**June 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

**July 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Bigelow.

**August 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

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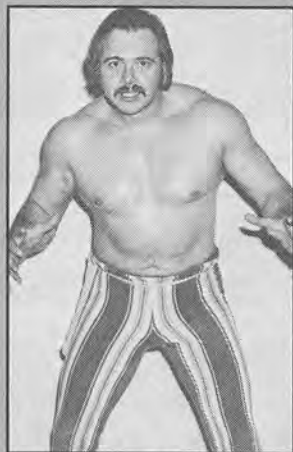
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## BRUCE SWAYZE

The former manager of the Love brothers in the IWA in the early '70s is now the national accounts manager for the Alliance Rubber Company, based in Franklin, Kentucky. "Beautiful Bruce" has also opened a wrestling school in Nashville.

"Right now, I'm just looking for a tag team that's as great as Reginald and Hartford once were," said Swayze. Even after years away from the ring, Swayze still stays in top physical condition at all times.



## GEORGE STEELE

According to many reports, "The Animal" has been forced to retire from wrestling because of accumulated psychological and physical injuries. However, Steele is still active on the wrestling scene, and has now been hired in a public-

relations capacity by the WWF. He can still be seen traveling with the wrestlers from time to time. "The fans love to wave to George and it does him a lot of good to see his fans," said a WWF source.



## LORENZO PARENTE

One of the most talented and feared men in the Texas and Mid-South regions in the '50s and '60s, this rugged competitor held the Oklahoma junior heavyweight title and the Texas and Oklahoma tag team ti-

tles with Bob Hart. Parente retired in 1977 after enjoying a 20-year career, and since then has operated "Lorenzo's" an Italian restaurant with his wife in Nashville, Tennessee. He urges all fans to stop in and talk wrestling with him.



## MISTY BLUE SIMMES

The former U.S. women's champion has been negotiating with the WWF in hopes of getting a World women's title match against Rockin' Robin in September. In the meantime, Misty can still be seen at arenas

all over the country, continuing her classic feud against Linda Dallas in the AWA and several independent federations. "But it's that Robin I really want to get my hands on," insists Misty. "Her title reign's on borrowed time."

# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

**H**E IS AN incredible package of speed, strength, skill, and enthusiasm ("You know it! Owwwwwwwwww!") ... A former bodybuilder, was trained for the pros by Red Bastien ... Joined the quartet known as Powerteam U.S.A., where one of his partners was The Ultimate Warrior ("Even back then he was pretty awesome") ... Sting and Warrior (then known as Rock) formed a team of their own, wrestling in the Mid-Southern and UWF areas as The Blade Runners ("We had a killer feud going with The Fantastics") ... Sting moved on to singles competition when Rock left for World Class ... With Eddie Gilbert as his manager and partner, Sting became UWF tag team champion when the duo beat The Fantastics on July 20, 1986, in Tulsa, Oklahoma ("Eddie taught me a lot about the sport—good and bad") ... They lost the belts on September 27 ... Sting then teamed with Rick Steiner to capture the UWF tag title from Terry Taylor and Chris Adams on April 12, 1987 ("Steiner was a little more stable then") ... When they lost the belts on May 17, Sting split with Gilbert and Steiner and began feuding with them ("Some rotten stuff was going down") ... After the UWF became part of the NWA in late '87, Sting teamed with

## STING



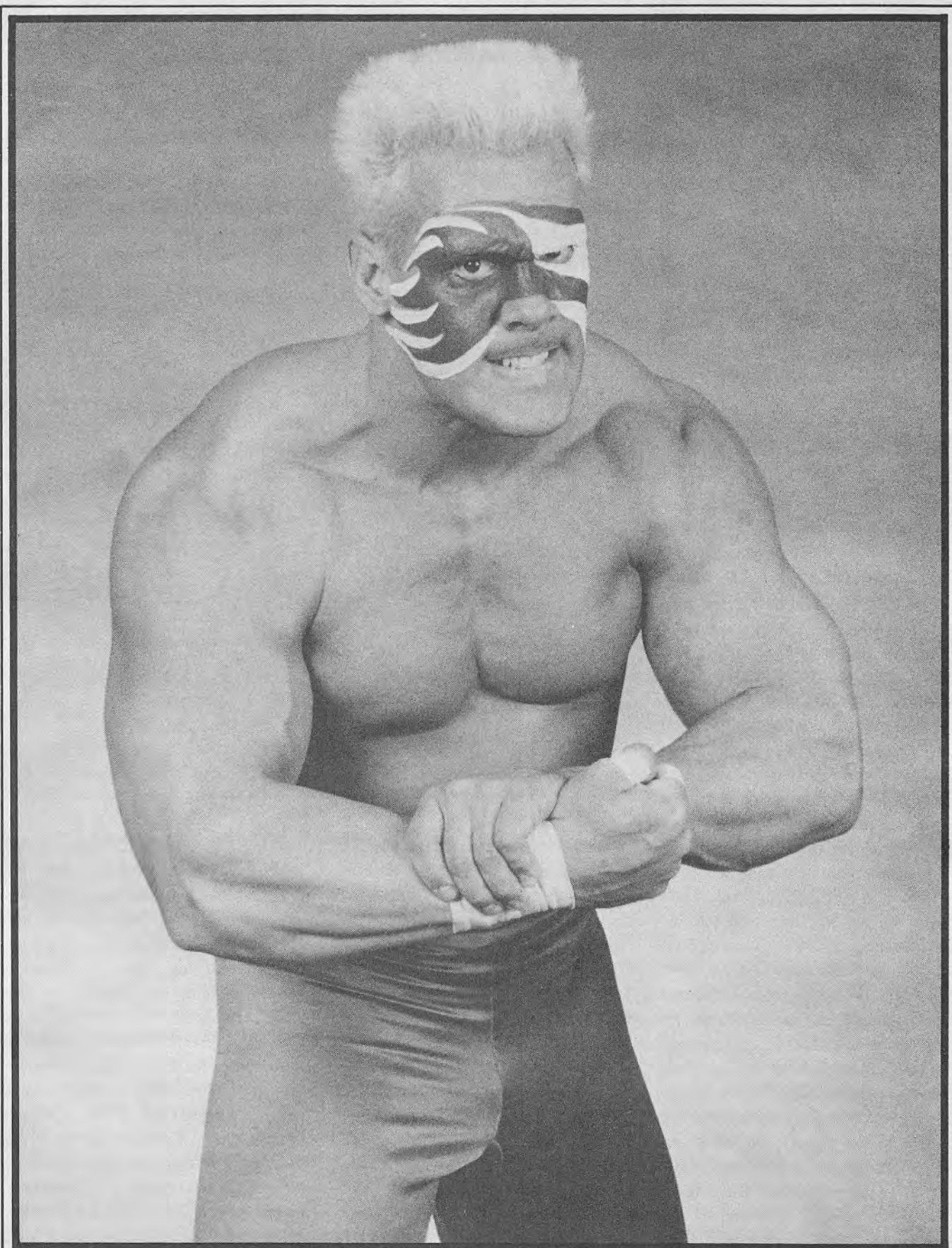
Sting rolls Barry Windham into a scorpion leglock. The "Stinger" couldn't win the U.S. title from Windham, but he did capture the NWA TV belt from Mike Rotundo. It was the first major singles title for this exciting young athlete.

Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin to wrestle Gilbert, Steiner, and Larry Zbyszko at Starrcade '87; the match ended in a draw ... Began receiving World title matches against NWA kingpin Ric Flair ... On March 27, 1988, at the first Clash of the Champions, Sting and Flair wrestled to a 45-minute draw ("I proved to the world I could wrestle with the best") ... Teamed with Lex Luger to win the Crockett Cup tag team tournament final on April 23 ("That was a wild night!") ... In the fall of '88, had a series of matches against Barry Windham for the U.S. title ("Barry's sneaky, but he's a great athlete") ... On October 7 in Richmond, Virginia, The Road Warriors turned against Sting when he substituted for Dusty Rhodes in a six-

man tag title defense ("Hawk and Animal can never be trusted completely") ... That incident led to a Starrcade '88 match pitting Sting and Rhodes against Hawk and Animal for the Warriors' World tag belts; the Warriors were disqualified but retained the title ("Me and Dusty got a raw deal to be sure") ... Wrestled Flair to a one-hour draw on New Year's Day, 1989 ... His first major singles championship came on March 30, 1989, when he defeated Mike Rotundo for the NWA TV title ("It feels so good having a strap around my waist") ... Currently wrestling sensational high-flying matches against The Great Muta ("Muta might spit that slimy green stuff, but no way he's gonna take this belt from me. Owwwwwwww!")



## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**STING**

# BACK ISSUES OF



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**April 1980**/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.  
**May 1980**/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.  
**June 1980**/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.  
**August 1980**/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.  
**September 1980**/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.  
**November 1980**/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.  
**January 1981**/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.  
**April 1981**/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.  
**May 1981**/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.  
**June 1981**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.  
**September 1981**/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.  
**January 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.  
**February 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.  
**March 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.  
**April 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.  
**May 1982**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.  
**June 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.  
**July 1982**/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.  
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**September 1982**/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.  
**October 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.  
**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.  
**December 1982**/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.  
**February 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

**March 1983**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.  
**April 1983**/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.  
**May 1983**/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.  
**June 1983**/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.  
**July 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.  
**August 1983**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.  
**September 1983**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.  
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**November 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.  
**December 1983**/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.  
**March 1984**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.  
**April 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.  
**May 1984**/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.  
**June 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.  
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**February 1985**/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.  
**March 1985**/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.  
**April 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.  
**May 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

**June 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.  
**July 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.  
**August 1985**/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.  
**September 1985**/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.  
**October 1985**/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.  
**November 1985**/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.  
**December 1985**/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.  
**January 1986**/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.  
**February 1986**/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.  
**March 1986**/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.  
**April 1986**/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.  
**May 1986**/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.  
**June 1986**/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.  
**July 1986**/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.  
**August 1986**/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.  
**September 1986**/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.  
**October 1986**/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.  
**November 1986**/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.  
**December 1986**/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.  
**January 1987**/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.  
**February 1987**/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.  
**March 1987**/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.  
**April 1987**/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.  
**May 1987**/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.  
**June 1987**/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.  
**July 1987**/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

**August 1987**/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.  
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**January 1988**/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.  
**February 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.  
**March 1988**/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.  
**April 1988**/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.  
**May 1988**/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.  
**June 1988**/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.  
**July 1988**/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.  
**August 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.  
**September 1988**/SPECIAL ISSUE: Col-or coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.  
**October 1988**/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.  
**November 1988**/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.  
**December 1988**/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.  
**January 1989**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.  
**February 1989**/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.  
**March 1989**/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.  
**May 1989**/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.  
**June 1989**/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.  
**July 1989**/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.

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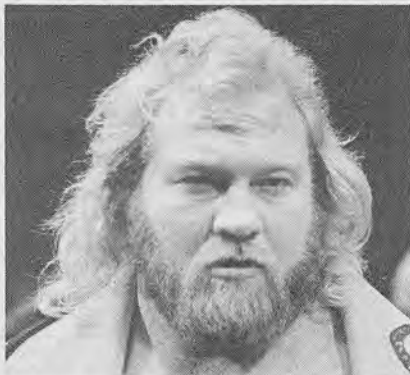


# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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## ERIE, PA By Chris Trinch



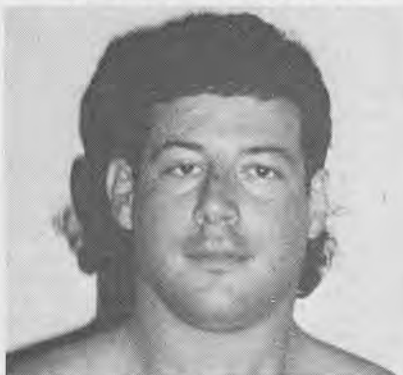
**BIG JOHN STUDD  
vs.  
AKEEM**



Akeem tried to slam Studd, but only got him about an inch off the ground. They started brawling, and Studd repeatedly rammed Akeem's head into the turnbuckle. Akeem again tried to slam Studd and *did* get him up, but he fell under Studd's weight. When Akeem got back up, he tried a clothesline and missed. Studd nailed him with a clothesline of his own and scored the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Paul Roma pinned Conquistador I ... Bret Hart and The Honky Tonk Man were both counted out ... Demolition beat The Powers of Pain by DQ ... Hillbilly Jim beat Boris Zuhov ... Curt Hennig defeated Koko B. Ware ... Ted DiBiase pinned Tito Santana ... Hulk Hogan beat Big Bossman.

## HILLSBORO, OR By Jamie Mascomo



**CARL STYLES  
vs.  
THE GRAPPLER**



Grappler attacked Styles before the bell and thrashed him. He then took off his loaded boot and smacked Styles in the face with it. But Styles grabbed the boot and clobbered Grappler, then quickly pinned him. After the bout, special referee Rex King tried to get the boot from The Grappler, but he was knocked nearly unconscious to the arena floor.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Top Gun drew with Scott Peterson ... Brian Adams defeated Al Madril ... Col. DeBeers, Buddy Rose, & Scotty the Body beat Steve Doll, Betelgeuse, & Jonathan Boyd ... DeBeers pinned Joey Jackson.

## NEW YORK, NY By Michael Long



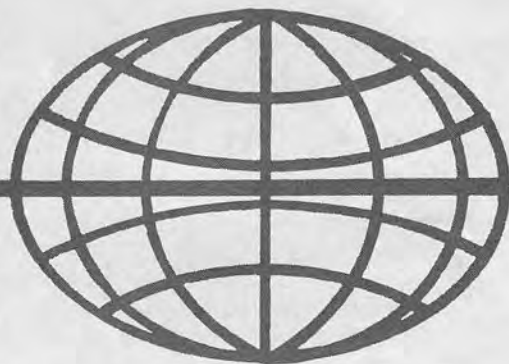
**BRET HART  
vs.  
CURT HENNIG**



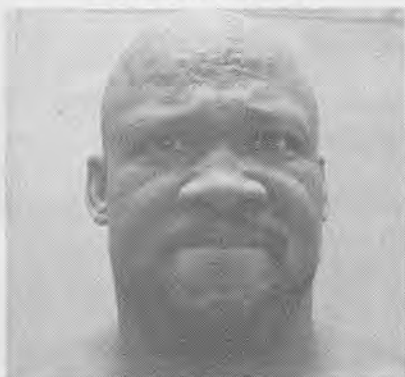
Two of the best technicians in the WWF started off by trading headlocks and bodyslams. The match turned in favor of Hennig when he kept Hart outside the ring with several kicks. "Mr. Perfect" maintained control of the match when he hit Bret with some dropkicks and spinning toeholds. Bret regained command and started working on Hennig's arm. Just as it appeared Hart had Hennig pinned after a flying elbow, the match ended in a time-limit draw.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Randy Savage beat Hulk Hogan by countout ... The Bushwhackers beat Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson ... Jake Roberts pinned Ted DiBiase ... Paul Roma beat Boris Zuhov ... Dino Bravo pinned Hercules ... Hillbilly Jim beat The Honky Tonk Man by DQ ... Greg Valentine beat The Blue Blazer.

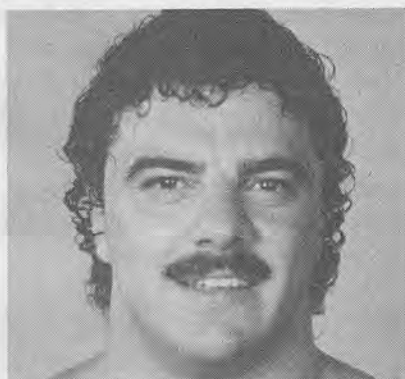
# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## BRONX, NY By Nils Brady



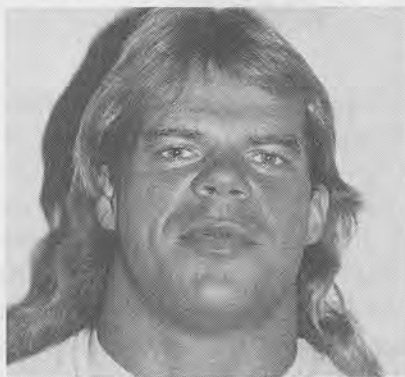
**TONY ATLAS  
vs.  
JOE SAVOLDI**



This match was for Atlas' ICW title. Savoldi, who was determined to keep the match scientific, dominated for the first seven minutes with a series of leglocks and armtwists. Then Atlas got dirty, slamming Savoldi's legs into the ringpost. But Savoldi soon regained the advantage. He had Atlas in a figure-four leglock when Atlas' manager, The Duke, ran in the ring and kicked Savoldi in the head. Atlas was disqualified but retained his title.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Phil Apollo beat Brian Walsh ... Savoldi won a 14-man battle royal ... Vic Steamboat beat Eric Sbraccia ... Jose Luis Rivera beat Chris Michaels ... Jamie West defeated Rosebud ... Tom Brandi defeated Ray Odyssey ... The Undertakers beat Brian Donohue & Chris Michaels.

## RICHMOND, VA By Joseph Williams



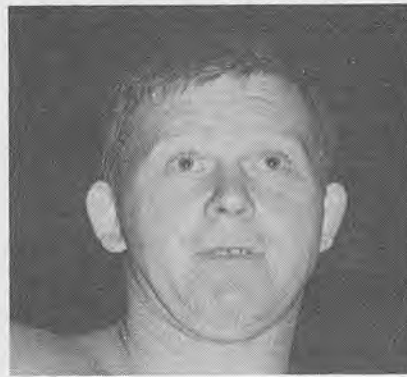
**LEX LUGER  
vs.  
MICHAEL HAYES**



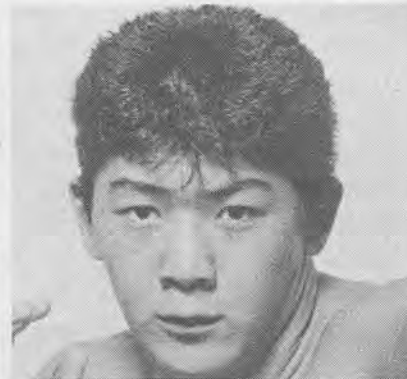
Luger and Hayes have wrestled for the U.S. title many times, but Hayes' belt was not on the line in this encounter. At first, both men appeared evenly matched, but Luger soon began to dominate the encounter. The "Total Package" was clearly winning when Hayes pulled out a foreign object. Lex managed to wrest the weapon away from Hayes, however, and use it on him. Lex scored the pin and made it clear that this feud is far from over.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Randy Rose pinned Joey Maggs ... The Dynamic Dudes defeated The Raider & Jack Victory ... Ron Simmons pinned Steven Casey ... Terry Funk pinned Ranger Ross ... The Samoan Swat Team beat Eddie Gilbert & Scott Steiner ... Sting defeated The Great Muta by DQ.

## TOKYO, JAPAN By Koichi Yoshizawa



**BOB BACKLUND  
vs.  
MASAHARU FUNAKI**



Backlund, the former WWF champion, was eager to face Funaki, one of Japan's best. The two competitors matched up well because they are both great scientific wrestlers. After about 12 minutes, Funaki nailed Backlund with an elbowdrop from the second rope for the second time. That caused his disqualification because, under Japan's UWF rules, an elbowdrop off the ropes is illegal. Backlund, however, appeared uncomfortable with the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Akira Maeda defeated Kazuo Yamazaki ... Nobuhiko Takada defeated Jumbo Barretta ... Yoshiaki Fujiwara defeated Yoji Anyjo ... Minoru Suzuki beat Mr. Tamura by submission.





# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**OSAKA, JAPAN:** In the land of the rising yen, something big is happening in wrestling. Back in late 1988, several Japanese wrestling officials went on a goodwill trip to the Soviet Union and managed to talk the commies into sending a bunch of top amateurs—mostly Olympic veterans—over here for a series of matches. Well, I never thought it would come off, but it did, and I'm glad. Very simply, while everybody in the U.S. is talking about WrestleMania and that NWA card in Nashville, I'm going on record as saying that the April 24 card at the Egg Dome in Tokyo was the best of the year, if not *the* best. It certainly was the most unusual. Over 53,000 fans jammed into the Tokyo Dome to see Antonio Inoki lose his Martial Arts championship to Soviet Olympic judo gold medalist Shota Chochoshvili. They also saw several other matches involving Soviet, American, and Japanese stars. Even the great American hope, Bam Bam Bigelow, found the Soviets too much to handle. He lost to Salman Hashimokov, and it was a convincing victory for the

Russian. But that wasn't all. They did it again on May 25 in Osaka, and Inoki, whose arm was broken in the Tokyo match, beat Chochoshvili at 1:07 of the second round (the bout was scheduled for 10 three-minute rounds). Also, Hashimokov beat Big Van Vader for the IWGP title, and this guy gets more impressive every time I see him. There is, by the way, a major difference between Chochoshvili, Hashimokov, and the Soviet wrestlers we're used to seeing in America. The old guard, like Nikita and Ivan Koloff, were trained to be professional wrestlers and were sent here to conquer America. The new guard, like Chochoshvili, Hashimokov, Vladimir Berkovich, and Victor Zangiev, were trained as amateurs, and most of them have Olympic backgrounds. They were sent over here as a goodwill gesture, and now it looks like the Soviets will try to popularize pro wrestling back home. A new era has begun. When Matt Brock makes two trips to Japan in one month, you know something's happening.



**BIGELOW VS. SALMAN HASHIMOKOV**

**HOLLYWOOD, CA:** I never liked this town. First of all, it seems like everybody's got a poodle, the most ridiculous dog ever invented. If you're going to have a dog—and I'm not much for any living thing that won't have a beer once in a while—it might as well be a dog with some substance, not some white fluffy thing named Fifi with pink ribbons in its ears. Take a close look at a poodle one day and you'll discover one thing: They're no different from any other dog. They've gotta be fed and walked and taken to the vet like all the rest of 'em. Second of all, everybody drives around in Mercedes convertibles and Jaguars. What the heck ever happened to good old American cars like the Dodge Dart? And finally, all they ever talk about is the damn movies. When Clark Gable and Greta Garbo hung it up, I stopped watching movies, and I don't plan on starting again now, even if Hulk Hogan thinks he's a

## Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

movie star again. I figured he'd hang it up after *Rocky III* and just concentrate on wrestling, but you know how things are these days: Give somebody a little fame, and all of a sudden they want to start making movies. Well, I was invited to a premiere of



**RIC FLAIR**

*No Holds Barred* out here, and there was no way I was going to go. Then Saks started pressing rank. Well, I didn't go to the premiere, but I went a few days later to a local theater showing the flick. I walked in, saw a ton of screaming kids with their parents in tow, grabbed a seat, had some teenager spill soda pop all over my leg, and decided I'd had enough. Walked out of the theater, grabbed a cab, and hopped over to the Olympic Auditorium. Just stood outside and thought about the old days, when wrestlers were wrestlers, not movie stars. Then I remembered Gorgeous George.

**NEW YORK, NY:** Dusty Rhodes is back in the WWF. Give me a month to try and digest this.

**CHARLOTTE, NC:** Ric Flair has never been one to sit back and relax when he's been insulted. But these days, the six-time NWA World champion doesn't have much of a choice. I caught up to him at his home here (one of several he owns; the benefits of being a rich champion) while he was recuperating from the injuries suffered in the Terry Funk attack, looked him square in the eye, and saw a man just aching to get back into that ring and teach Funk a lesson. But, of course, he can't. He's under doctor's orders to stay put. And even if the medics never uttered a word, I don't think Flair could do much wrestling: He has pain in his neck and back pain. He can't even work out, since the strain on his neck would be too great if he lifted weights. So he spends a great deal of time watching tapes of matches (he's watched the Funk attack about 50 times, according to his count) and thinking up new strategies. That's the great part about Flair. Put Hulk Hogan on the sidelines and there's nothing he can do. He has no strategy, and watching tapes would get him nowhere. But Flair is different. He's an athlete, but he's also a thinker. Funk's biggest mistake was sidelining Flair. Now he has time to work on his revenge. If Flair had come back right away, however, Funk might've been able to catch him in a mistake. Now there's no way Funk will ever win the World title again. Terry's a great wrestler, but sometimes he just doesn't use his head. □



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**THE BEST KEEPS GETTING BETTER—BECAUSE YOU WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS!**

# THE SECRETS OF HIGH-FLYING SUCCESS

By Mil Mascaras



Fans in World Class were thrilled when Mil Mascaras, the legendary "Man Of A Thousand Masks," returned to action. Now, Mascaras takes high-flying aim at many of today's aerial wrestlers—and offers fair warning to those who dare to take to the air!

**F**IRST OF ALL, I want to tell my fans in the United States how good it has been to wrestle for them again. In recent years, I have been spending most of my time in my native Mexico, but my recent appearances in the World Class

area were some of the most enjoyable matches I've had in a long time. After 20 years in the squared circle, it is good to know the fans have not forgotten me.

It is also pleasing to see that many of today's young stars are

beginning to discover that aerial maneuvers can be quite effective in combating even the most savage rulebreakers. Any tactics that can render an opponent helpless without having to employ brutality should be used as often as possi-



ble if this great sport is to avoid turning into complete bedlam.

I want many of today's young wrestlers to know that they are on the right track to success. The flying bodypress, one of my favorite maneuvers, is now being used by Jimmy Snuka, Jeff Jarrett, Rick Steamboat, and many other stars. The flying forearm, another of my best moves, is being used today by Tito Santana. The dropkick from the top rope is now a staple in the repertoires of Curt Hennig and Paul Roma, among others. The Great Muta is using a great deal of my moves—and some I never even saw before. It feels good to know my legacy has not been forgotten.

There are others, however, who are not using these maneuvers in the proper manner. Some young men are climbing to the top rope at the drop of a hat, and that can be one of the most dangerous things a wrestler can do. Like the old saying goes, *what goes up must come down*. If a wrestler lands the wrong way, the match—and quite possibly his career—can be ended almost instantly.

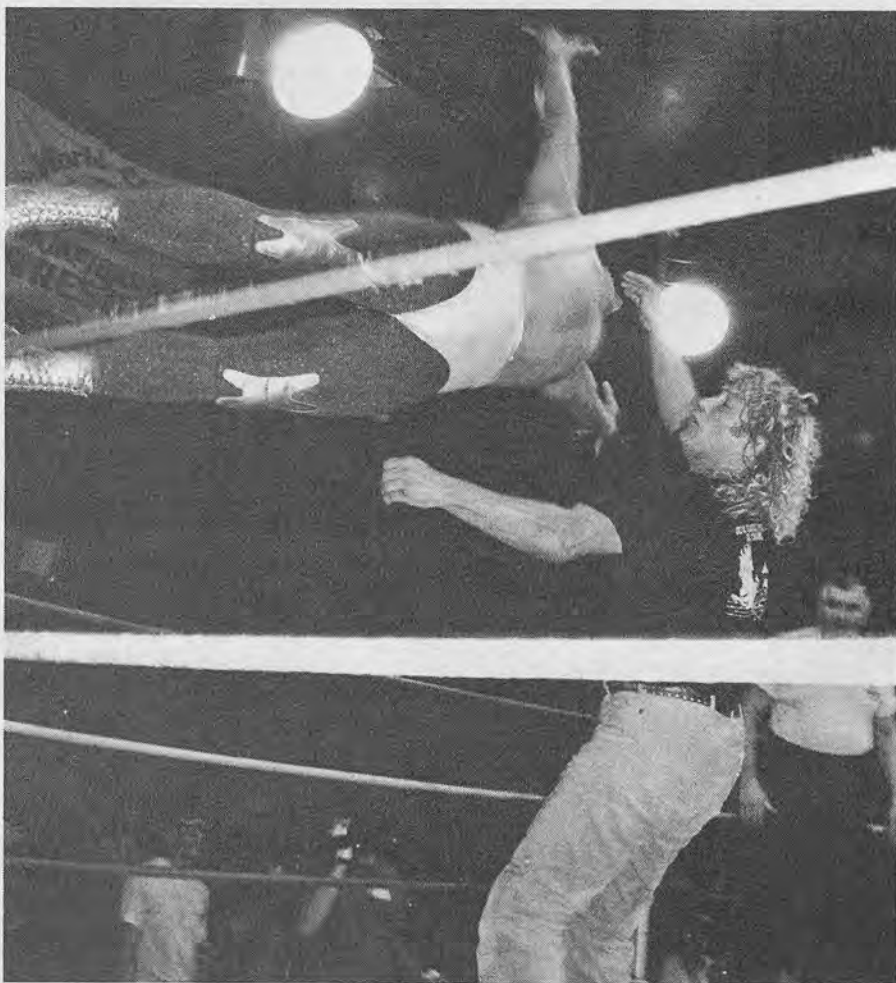
There are numerous ways to avoid this. Too many wrestlers are attempting dangerous maneuvers such as the flying bodypress at too early a time in their bouts. Aerial maneuvers are among the finest ever invented, but they are to be used sparingly, and at the proper moment, if they are to be effective. The timing of *when* to use aerial tactics is as important as learning the proper way to execute them.

Since aerial maneuvers seem to be on the upswing these days, I now offer some secrets to my own high-flying success. I hope that today's stars will continue to use—but not abuse—the tactics that have led to some of my biggest victories.

**Wear your opponent down.** This sounds like a cliché, but it's extremely hard to use many top-turn-buckle maneuvers if your oppo-



Mil Mascaras, perhaps the greatest high-flyer ever, plasters Zodiac with a flying shoulder-block (above) and leaps at Buddy Roberts from off the top rope (below).





Mascaras dropkicks Zodiac with the same effectiveness he's dropkicked countless opponents over the past two decades. On his recent tour of World Class, Mascaras is displaying his skills for a new generation of fans.

nent still has his bearings about him. Look at Jimmy Snuka, for instance. His flying splash from the top turnbuckle is one of the most breathtaking moves I've ever seen. But if his opponent moves out of the way, he is defeated instantly. I remember a steel cage match at Madison Square Garden in 1982 when Bob Backlund rolled out of the way—after Snuka leaped from the top of the cage. That was the only time I can recall Snuka missing his maneuver, but it cost him his chance at the WWF title.

Snuka could have seriously injured himself, and that's too high a price to pay. The flying splash, like the flying bodypress, is dangerous both to the man who is receiving the blow and to the wrestler who is delivering it. Both must be used only when the time is right.

**Don't use aerial tactics too often.** Many people have compared The Blue Blazer to myself, and I am as flattered by the comparison as I've heard he is. He uses many of the same maneuvers that I do, but he does so with one noticable difference: He tries to use his high-flying maneuvers almost *all* the time. Perhaps that is why his won-lost record is not as impressive as his talent.

Many fans know me only for my aerial skills. But if it wasn't for my extensive knowledge of scientific holds, I never would have made it all the way to the IWA championship back in the mid-'70s. I remember one night in July 1975 when I defended my belt against vicious Ivan Koloff in a rainy outdoor match in New Jersey. I was forced to use on-the-mat holds such as armbars and leglocks as

much as possible. If I had tried to use nothing but aerial maneuvers, I'm sure I wouldn't have been nearly as effective—and I probably would have injured myself severely on the slick mat.

I don't see anything *but* aerial maneuvers with the Blazer. Instead of setting up his aerial maneuvers with basic holds and maneuvers, he's bouncing off the ropes almost from the minute the opening bell rings. It's like a pitcher in baseball. Even if he can throw a ball 90 m.p.h., he still has to throw an occasional curveball or he'll become too predictable.

For the Blazer and others like him, I say use aerial tactics only when it is necessary for a pinfall. Don't rely on them as your *only* offensive weapons, or you'll either wear yourself out too quickly or make yourself too easy for your opponent to outguess.

**If you're not in top shape, don't even try it.** It chills me to the bone to see some wrestlers climb up to the top rope. Even veterans like Harley Race and Bob Orton continue to use aerial maneuvers even though they're older and much more bulky. I feel this is wrong.

I'm not being an elitist here, but only men of top physical capabilities should use aerial tactics on a regular basis. The degree of timing and balance needed are of utter importance. Believe me, there's a lot more to diving off the top turnbuckle than meets the eye! It looks easy, but it took years of training before I could even *attempt* such a maneuver. I see too many rookies right out of wrestling school risking broken bones and concussions.

So, young wrestlers, please take heed of my advice. If you want to emulate me I'll consider it the highest compliment in the world—as long as you ply your trade properly. Remember, my kind of style isn't the only way to go. Find your *own* niche, *then* follow your dreams. □



**T**HE TWO WRESTLERS came together and referee Mickey Jay was unfortunate enough to be caught between them. He fell unconscious to the mat, giving manager Sir Oliver Humperdink enough time to knock out the keeper of the key to the steel cage, and fate enough time to decide the future of Dusty Rhodes.

Rhodes, the PWF champion, was defending his title against Big Steel Man in Sarasota, Florida. His reign was about to come to an end. When Humperdink opened the cage door and prepared to hit Dusty with his spike, Rhodes responded by slamming him to the floor. Then Dusty went to slam Steel Man, but Diamond Dallas Page ran out from the dressing room and tossed a chloroform-soaked towel to Humperdink. Sir Oliver covered Dusty's face with the towel and Dusty fell to the mat. Steel Man woke up the referee and covered the champ for the pin.

It was over.

*Boy*, was it over.

"You mean to tell me they're not gonna look at the tapes of that match?" a steaming-hot Rhodes screamed at the group of reporters surrounding his locker. "That's their idea of how a title should change hands? Well, you can tell 'em that the 'Dream' is fed up. I've had enough." He stalked out of the dressing room and slammed the door behind him.

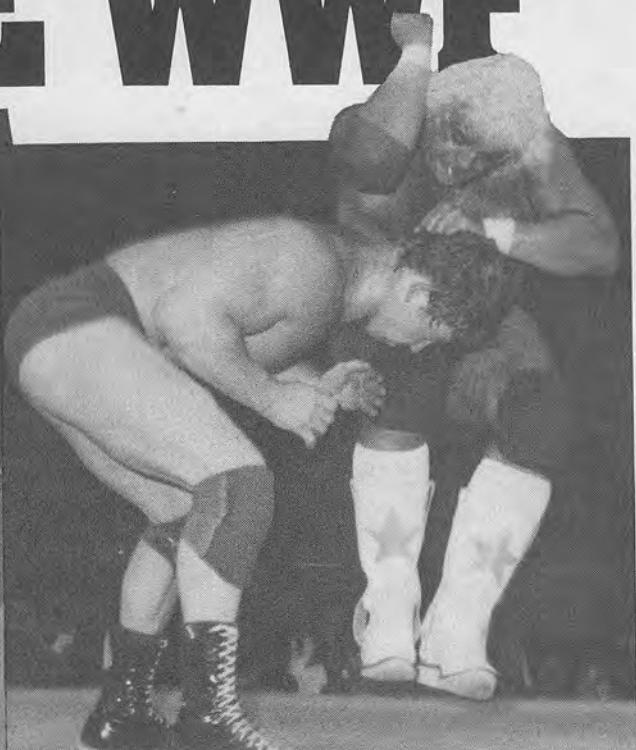
Many reporters who were there that night feel that was the moment Rhodes decided to leave the PWF and start entertaining the many offers he had received from the WWF.

# The "American Dream" Reborn!



**To many people, the idea of Dusty Rhodes wrestling in the WWF is unthinkable. But think again! The "American Dream" has shocked the wrestling world by announcing that he is returning to the WWF and leaving his NWA and PWF days far behind**

# DUSTY RHODES RETURNS TO THE WWF



Dusty fought One Man Gang (now known as Akeem) in Florida (left), and may fight him again in the WWF. Rhodes battled Bob Backlund for the WWF World title in Japan (above). Dusty unloads on Big Steel Man during one of his last Florida bouts (below).

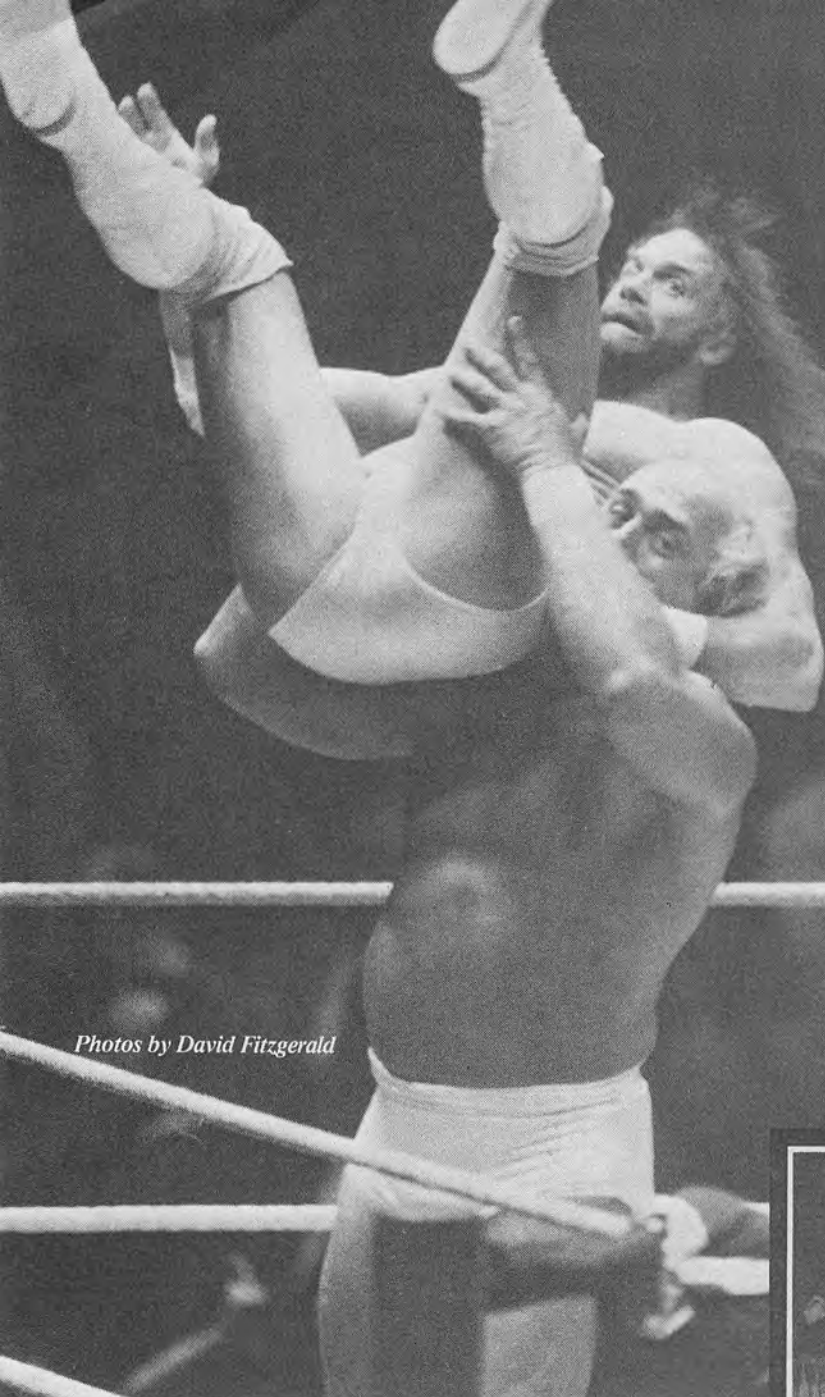


For months, calls from WWF officials went unreturned; envelopes with the WWF's return address in the upper-left corner went unopened. The "American Dream" was content in Florida—until Mickey Jay was knocked out and Oliver Humperdink went to work.

"The 'American Dream' is the greatest, most famous wrestler in America, and I'm well past the point where I have to put up with that kind of crap," Rhodes said. "That

*(Continued on page 54)*



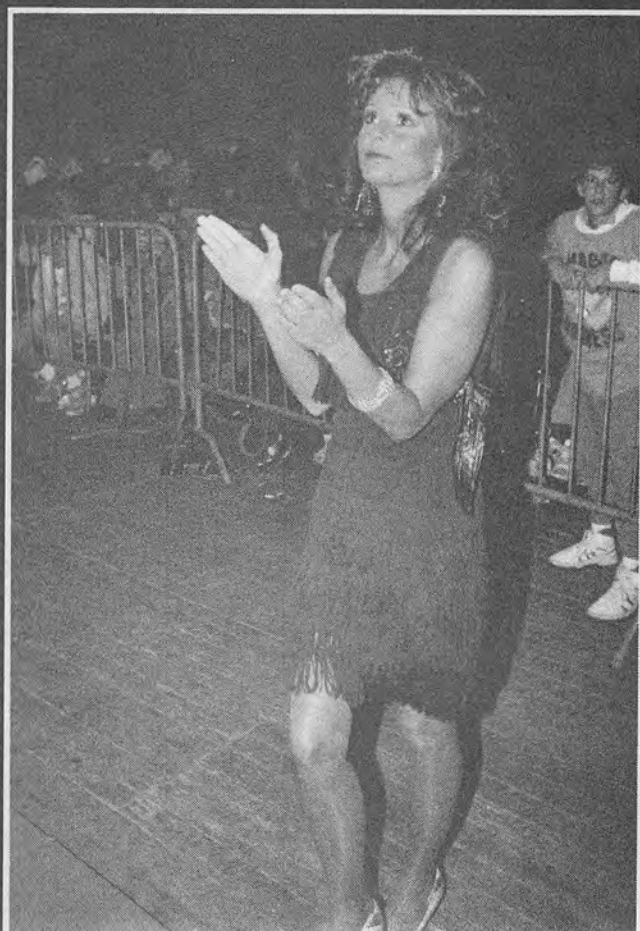


Hulk Hogan executes a spinebreaker on Randy Savage. The "Macho Man" is being humiliated by the "Hulkster" in nearly all their matches since WrestleMania.

# SAVAGE IS SHAMED BY HOGAN

*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

***Only  
Elizabeth  
Can Save  
Him Now***



**Nobody could have predicted the devastating effect Elizabeth's absence would have on Randy Savage, but the truth is clear: He's been humiliated by Hogan several times and is falling further away from the WWF World title. It's a sad story that's getting sadder**

By Dave Rosenbaum

**F**OUR YEARS AGO, Randy Savage arrived in the WWF and shocked the wrestling world by naming the then-unknown Elizabeth as his manager. In retrospect, that move accounted for the great success he has enjoyed in the WWF.

On April 2, 1989, at WrestleMania V, Savage once again shocked the wrestling world—by pushing Elizabeth away. In retrospect, that move destroyed any chance the "Macho Man" had of retaining his WWF World title at WrestleMania, and of ever regaining it again.

It's incredible that Savage, a man who depended on nobody but himself for so many years, suddenly grew so attached to Elizabeth that he couldn't wrestle without her. Without the brilliant brunette by his side, Savage has become just another WWF hopeful, a former champion depending on rulebreaking and the outside interference of his new manager, Sherri Martel, to regain past glories.

But it's not going to happen.

Savage is lost, and only Elizabeth can bring him back. He has been humbled by Hogan on several occasions and hasn't come close to victory. Only because of Martel's interference has Savage been able to pick up a few hollow countout victories.

This is an incredible situation. Many fans and experts never regarded Elizabeth with much respect. She has been thought of as essentially a beauty with no brains and little wrestling knowledge. Her biggest visible contribution to Savage's cause was fetching Hulk Hogan for help on several occasions.



The reality of the situation, however, is that before becoming Savage's manager, Elizabeth was a commentator in the ICW area. Her knowledge of the sport is encyclopedic and she is an astute observer of wrestling trends. And because Savage spent his formative years in the ICW area, Elizabeth has watched him develop both as a wrestler and as a man. Nobody knows Savage better than Elizabeth.

Of course, the love attraction cannot be discounted. Savage has always been extremely fond of Elizabeth and looked to her for inspiration. Although it's hard to imagine a man like Savage ever needing comfort, he was always reassured by her presence in his corner. And what man's ego wouldn't be massaged by having a beautiful woman like Elizabeth by his side?

(Continued on page 56)

Hogan connects with a vicious chop (above) and warns Sherri Martel, Savage's manager, to keep out of his way (below). Many observers feel that Savage has lost momentum since Elizabeth stopped managing him.





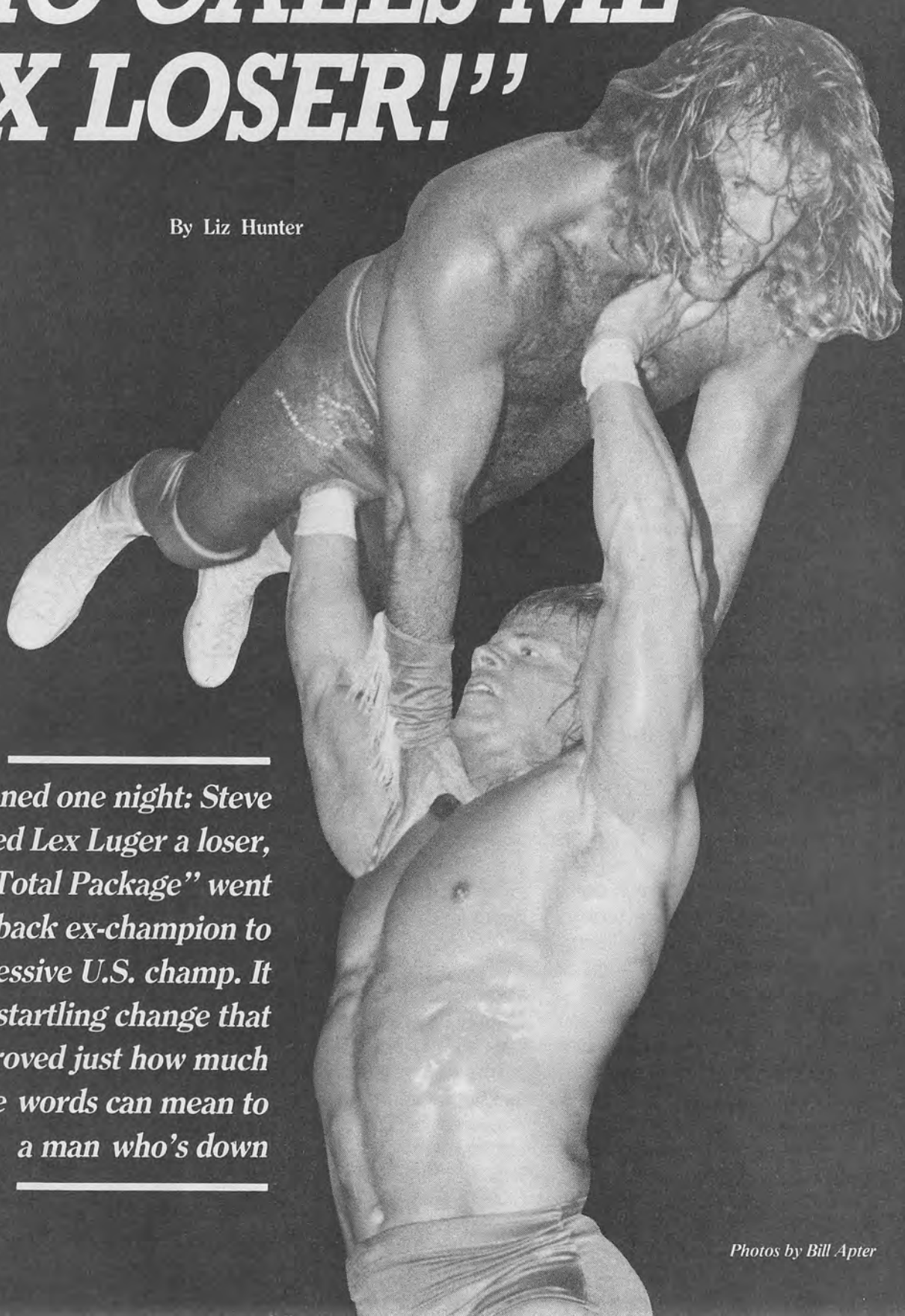
# "I PITY THE MAN WHO CALLS ME LEX LOSER!"

By Liz Hunter

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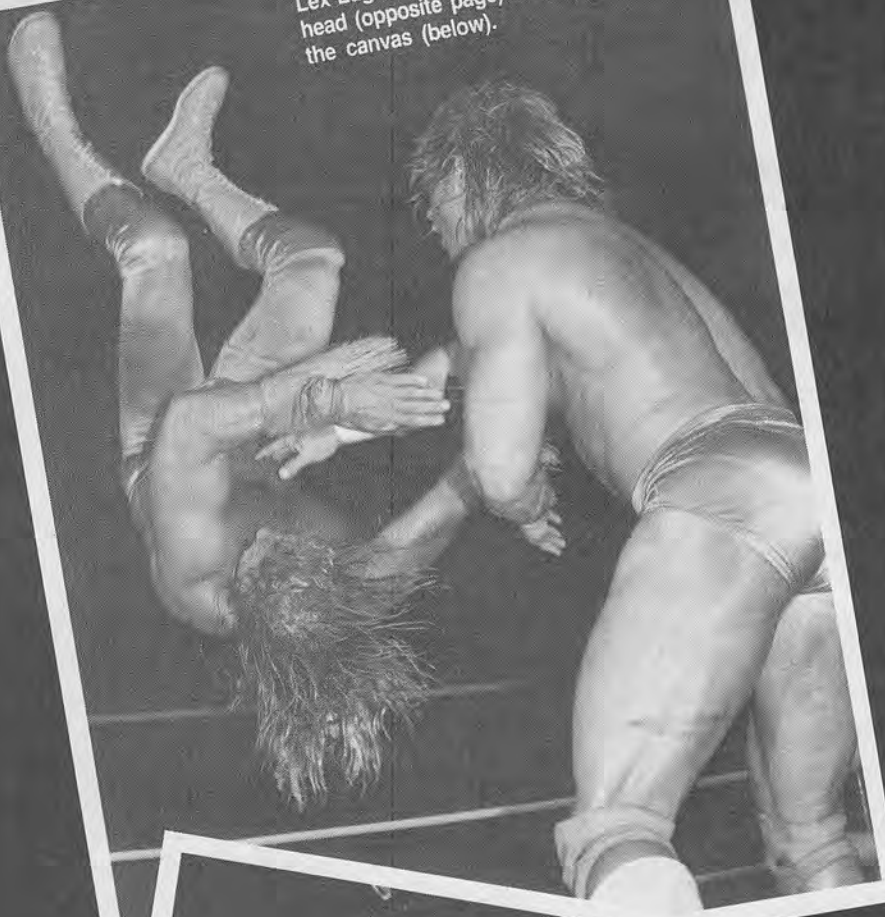
*It happened one night: Steve Casey called Lex Luger a loser, and the "Total Package" went from laid-back ex-champion to fiery, aggressive U.S. champ. It was a startling change that proved just how much simple words can mean to a man who's down*

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Photos by Bill Apter

Lex Luger presses Michael Hayes over-head (opposite page) and flings him to the canvas (below).



The "Total Package" unloads furiously on Hayes. Luger regained the U.S. title from the Freebird just two weeks after losing the belt.



IT WAS A night much like any other in the NWA. The crowd filed in quickly as belltime approached, while in the locker room, the wrestlers got warmed-up for the evening's matches. But then, just by chance, Steve Casey passed Lex Luger in the hallway and the course of wrestling history was changed.

"How does it feel to be Lex Loser?" Casey said under his breath, but loud enough for Luger to hear. "How does it feel not to have a belt?"

It was a bold comment coming from a man who has never held a major title. And it was especially bold in light of the fact that Casey was scheduled to wrestle Luger that evening. In most cases, the match would have started right there in the hall, but Luger, exercising unusual restraint, just stopped and stared into Casey's eyes with a look that said, "You're dead."

Thus, Luger launched into a new era of his career. As it turned out, Luger made good on his promise. He tore Casey to shreds, displaying incredible aggressiveness and a scary killer instinct. Afterward, Casey looked like a man who regretted ever opening his mouth. And Luger sounded like a man with a mission.

"I pity the man who calls me Lex Loser," Luger growled. "I've held titles in every federation I've been in. I've been U.S. champion twice. I took Ric Flair, the NWA World champion, to the limit, and this guy, this guy who's never done anything in his entire career, has the nerve to call me that. Well, you saw how he paid the price. Now everybody else is going to, too."

The biggest price, as it turned out, was paid by Michael Hayes, who had beaten Luger for the title on May 7 in Nashville. That loss in itself infuriated Luger because Terry Gordy was directly responsible for Hayes' success. First, Hayes pushed Gordy on top of Lex for the pin. Then, when Luger put his leg on the ropes, Gordy pushed it off. "No more Mr. Nice Guy," Luger promised afterward.

And so, just 15 days later in the little town of Bluefield, West Virginia,

*(Continued on page 58)*



# HOTSEAT

## GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR

### "BAN ME—I DARE YOU!"

**S**NEAK-ATTACKS suspensions. Mass confusion. It's been a wild first half of 1989 in World Class, and thus far every controversy has been the doing of the most infamous manager in the federation's history—Gen. Skandor Akbar.

Akbar, long famous for his brutality, has chosen Eric Embry as his main target for destruction. Ever since Embry turned down the opportunity to join Devastation Inc. last year, Akbar has done everything in his power to drive the flamoyant grappler out of Texas. He's come close, but Akbar's crazed plans nearly turned out to be his own undoing.

Angered by Embry's victory over Gary Young in a loser-leaves-World Class match for the Texas title, Akbar took it upon himself to wrestle Embry in a steel cage match on April 21 at Dallas' Sportatorium. The loser was to be banned from World Class for life, but the devious Akbar wasn't about to take any chances. After several minutes of action, Cactus Jack and Zodiac emerged from under the ring and brutally beat Embry and special referee Frank Dusek with a baseball bat.

Dusek, the World Class matchmaker, suspended the Saudi Arabian after the match, but, in an incredible twist, it was announced that the World Class board of directors had suspended Dusek for illegally lifting an earlier suspension on Embry. Dusek, therefore,

was powerless to act against Akbar, who has since been the focal point of even more chicanery. Senior Editor Bill Apter was in Texas to talk to Akbar about his latest triumph: Zodiac's controversial May 23 defeat of Embry for the Texas title.

“

**As long as there are millionaires like me to flash the green in front of their eyes, you'll see more and more striped shirts wise up and join the ranks of the affluent.**

”

**Q:** Gen. Akbar, you've somehow managed to do it again. It looked for a brief, fleeting moment as if long-suffering Texas fans had seen the last of you, but you're still around and as dangerous as ever. At this point, I'd really like to know how you got to Harold T. Harris. How many corrupt referees are we going to see in wrestling before this kind of garbage ends once and for all?

**A:** Chances are, as long as there are millionaires like me to flash the green in front of their eyes, you'll see more and more striped shirts

start to wise up and join the ranks of the affluent. You see, Harris is not corrupt, as you say. He's just plain smart. He knows he'll make more money as the sergeant-of-arms for Devastation Inc. than he ever would by pounding the mats.

**Q:** That doesn't answer my question, though, and it doesn't right the wrong that was done during the Zodiac-Embry match. It's clear that Zodiac used a small chain to kayo Eric, but when Embry retaliated and used it to score a pin, Harris called for a break. Next, it looked like Zodiac intentionally pushed Embry into Harris, but not nearly enough to knock the referee out . . .

**A:** That's your opinion.

**Q:** No, that's a *fact*. Harris was just playing possum. Zodiac went into Harris' pocket, pulled out the chain, and cold-cocked Embry with it. Then, Harris somehow *immediately* recovered and counted out Embry for the losing pin. At least matchmaker Frank Dusek knows a sham when he sees one. Harris deserved to be suspended as a referee, and I'm glad that Dusek had the guts to ban him from ever again officiating a pro match.

**A:** Ask Harris if he cares about that now. As we've all seen in the past, a suspension by Dusek doesn't hold up for very long, does it?







“

If [Frank] Dusek was any kind of a man, he'd stop these ridiculous suspensions, climb in the ring, and get the beating of his life from me and my wrestlers.

”

That lout Embry was suspended when he lost a sanctioned loser-leaves-World Class match to Gary Young in February, but Dusek ended it prematurely and illegally, and even the World Class board of directors agrees with me on that one. Who cares if the worthless fans send in petitions? That means nothing legally, but it seems some people around here get special privileges. Dusek tried to suspend me after me and my men Zodiac and Cactus beat up him and Embry after the cage match, but my team of lawyers took care of that one, didn't they? Well, Dusek, go ahead, try and ban me—I dare you! It will be the worst mistake of your life.

**Q:** Dusek isn't going to be doing much of anything after you and your men attacked him later that same day. There's no way one man can stand up to a six-on-one attack, and you sent him to the hospital with serious back and neck



Gen. Skandor Akbar and Gary Young gang up on Eric Embry, their favorite target. Although he hasn't been able to drive Embry out of the sport yet, Akbar says he and his Devastation Inc. will never quit trying.

injuries after you beat him with a chair. You're surely bound to be suspended if you continue these kinds of actions.

**A:** Ridiculous. If Dusek was any kind of a man, he'd stop these ridiculous suspensions, climb in the ring, and get the beating of his life from me and my wrestlers. I'll tell you, with myself, Cactus, Brickhouse [Brown], Iceman [Parsons], [Killer] Brooks, and Zodiac, we're the strongest assemblage of rulebreaking talent this stinking federation has ever seen, and there's nothing Dusek can do about it.

**Q:** By the way, that masked Zodiac looks mighty familiar to me. You know, he looks an awful lot like one of your former proteges . . .

**A:** I don't wish to hear about that.

**Q:** But he seems to wrestle just like . . .

**A:** I do not care about your opinions about Zodiac. He is a rookie wrestler from the Far East, but a very talented one, as even you can

plainly see.

**Q:** The Far East? Sure, Skandor. The only thing I can plainly see is the hatred you hold in your heart for Embry. Why have you tried so hard to rub him out? Wouldn't it be more to your advantage to try to win the World Class or WCCW tag team titles?

**A:** I do what I want to do at all times, Apter. Titles do not concern me in the least, unless they bring me sufficient wealth to supplement my oil riches. My biggest goal is the destruction and elimination of Eric Embry. If we're lucky, we'll get rid of Jeff Jarrett, Matt Borne, and that no-good Kerry Von Erich while we're at it, too. Right now, Zodiac has captured the Texas title, and that is enough. I'd much rather get rid of the bad element around here. Just ask Chris Adams about what my millions can do for a man. *(laughs)*

**Q:** That's another thing you're respon-

sible for. Somehow, you were able to lure Brickhouse Brown into your stable, and Brown attacked Adams just minutes after he signed with you. That came after Brown had worked for months to establish himself as one of the most scientific men in World Class. It was horrible.

**A:** It was fantastic. You see, as Brown will plainly tell you, he was sick and tired of being an also-ran in World Class. He was tired of teaming with that British idiot and not getting any of the glory or prestige. Now, every time he attacks Adams, I lay a sizable bonus on him.

**Q:** Which leads to my next question. According to many sources, you don't pay your men on the basis of wins or losses. You pay your wrestlers on how many injuries they can inflict. Is this true?

**A:** It is a fact, Apter, and I'm surprised a man of your supposed knowledge doesn't realize it. All my men do much better financially when they are able to hurt their

opponents. And lately, my men have been doing very, very well. Look at Brown and Iceman, for instance. Every time they put a few knots in the heads of those insipid Simpson brothers, that's good for a few thousand bucks. If they're able to get their hands on the Simpsons' fat manager, Percy Pringle, it's good for a few tens of thousands. If you notice, Parsons and Brown have been dressing pretty sharp lately, haven't they? That's because they've been good at earning bonuses. *Very good.*

**Q:** That's sickening, but it doesn't seem like your evil plans are doing you much good. If you look around, you can plainly see that all of your enemies are still here, and now they're as anxious to drive you from the sport as you are to get rid of them. If you ask me, you're living on borrowed time.

**A:** Nobody asked you. Only a fool would believe that Devastation Inc. doesn't rule World Class with an iron hand. There's nothing anybody can do about it, especially



“

**My biggest goal is the destruction and elimination of Eric Embry. [He'll] be lucky to survive at all once we're through with him.**

”

that worthless Embry. The \$50,000 bounty I put on his head that was won by Gary Young will be peanuts compared to the amount of money I'm capable of putting up for his eradication.

**Q:** So it looks like this war has just begun.

**A:** For once, you are right about something. Thus far, we've given that flamboyant fool a concussion, we've cut him open, and we've had him coughing up blood, but it still hasn't been enough to get rid of him. I won't give you all the details, but mark my words, Apter: The worst is yet to come. Embry will be lucky to survive *at all* once we're through with him. And when he is gone, it will be my crowning moment in this sport, my proof to the whole world that Skandor Akbar is the best manager anywhere. Let Dusek and those other officials try to suspend me. Go on. Let 'em. They'll never get away with it! □



Harold T. Harris, the former referee who's now a member of Devastation Inc., clobbers Frank Dusek with a chair as Dusek is held by Brickhouse Brown, Cactus Jack, and Zodiac.



# THE BUSHWHACKERS—

**The Bushwhackers, Butch Miller and Luke Williams, are running rampant throughout the WWF, and their opponents haven't got the slightest idea what to do with them.**

**Somehow, these two wildmen have compiled a winning record in the WWF—in the most ugly ways possible!**

By Bob Smith

**T**HEY LOOK BAD. They smell even worse. They wrestle like savages. They aren't particularly fast, strong, or agile.

But they *win*.

It's hard to believe that two men as strange as The Bushwhackers get *anything* accomplished, let alone rise to the number-two contender's spot for the WWF World tag team title. Then again, there's never been anything quite like Butch Miller and Luke Williams, especially the way they've been behaving of late.

Last fall, the team formerly known as The Sheepherders decided to leave the NWA, where they spent most of the past two years as one of the most hated teams in the sport. At that point, the veteran New Zealanders were in the midst of a pronounced losing streak. Breaking the rules didn't seem to work much for them anymore, and even changing flagbearers from Johnny Ace to Rip Morgan didn't make much of a difference. Deep in-

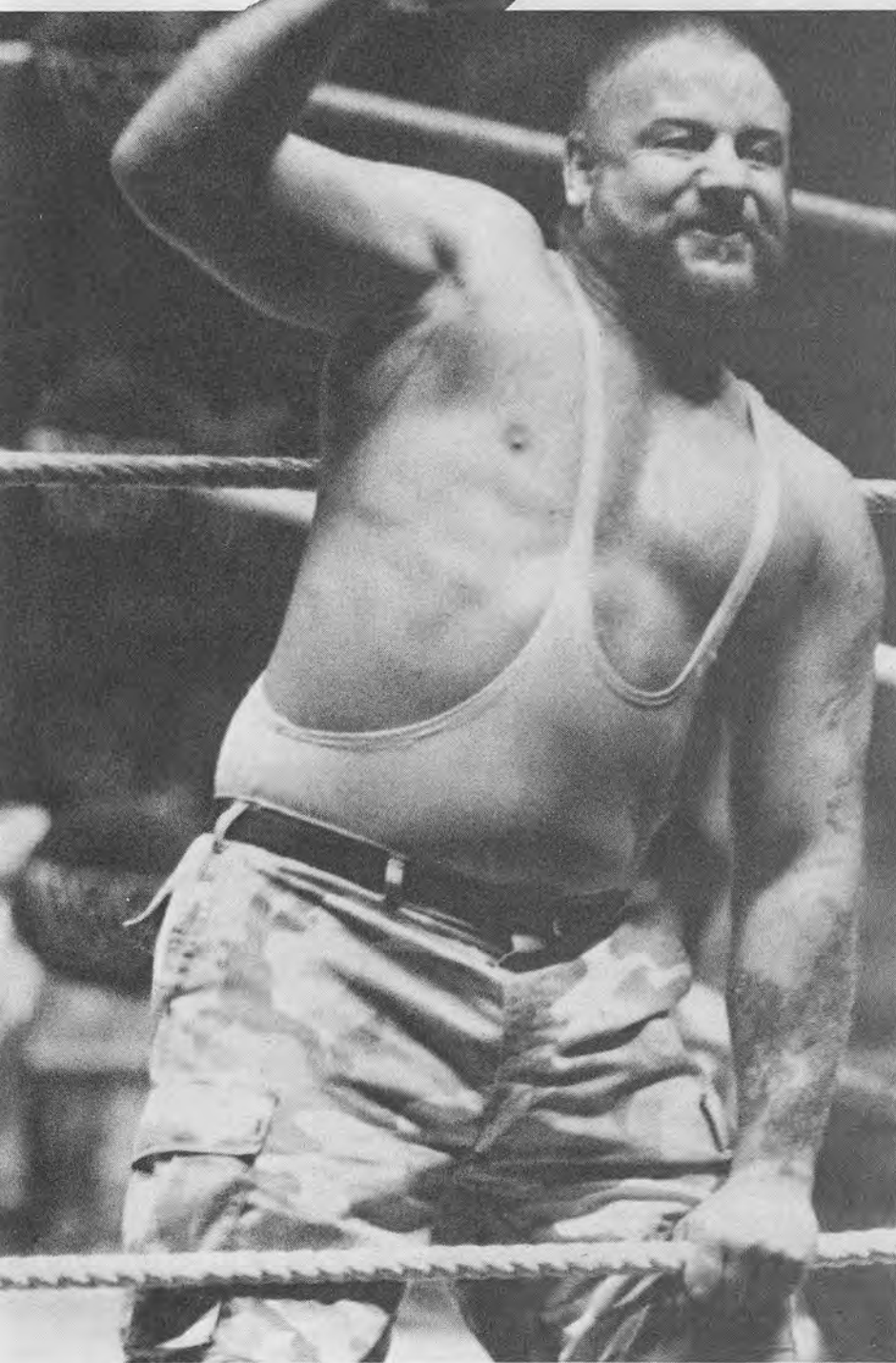


side, they hoped that the move to the new territory—as well as a slight change of philosophy—would help them.

They got what they wanted. The new-look Bushwhackers have estab-

lished themselves as one of the WWF's most popular and successful teams, if not the strangest in the federation's history. Buoyed by the cheers of the fans, they're biting, kicking, scratching, and double-teaming their way to un-

# -WINNING UGLY!



Luke Williams clotheslines Tully Blanchard. The Bushwhackers have surpassed The Brain Busters on the list of contenders to the WWF tag team title.

precedented success. They're winning ugly—and they're knocking at the door of the World tag title currently held by Demolition.

"My whole family just loves those loony guys," enthused Dorothea

Dinkins of New Haven, Connecticut, after a recent WWF card. "Whenever they come on TV, I have trouble controlling my two boys. As soon as they see them, they start strutting around the house in that crazy way Luke and

Butch do. Thank goodness they haven't started eating cans of sardines and licking each other's faces the way The Bushwhackers do!"

Children have taken to them because of their crazy antics, but Miller and Williams are doing something much more important than making fans laugh. They haven't suffered a pinfall loss since entering the federation—and they've scored important victories over teams like The Brain Busters, Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, The Bolsheviks, and The Conquistadors. Miller and Williams have, in fact, rushed past all of those teams as contenders. It's explaining *how* they've done it that's the hard part.

"Wrestling The Bushwhackers is like trying to catch smoke," said rugged preliminary wrestler Chris Curtis, a recent tag team victim of Miller and Williams. "They really don't have any kind of a style at all. I noticed that Luke had removed his front teeth before the bout, and sure enough he bit



me right in the head. Later on, they started beating up both me and my partner, Barry Horowitz, but they stopped in the center of the ring to scream and rub on each other's heads! I don't think these guys even know any maneuvers or holds. They're positively frightening!"

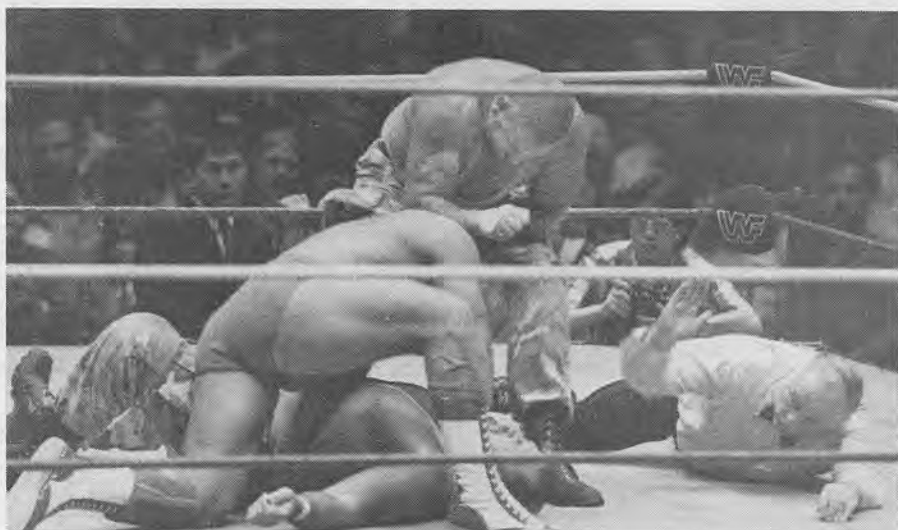
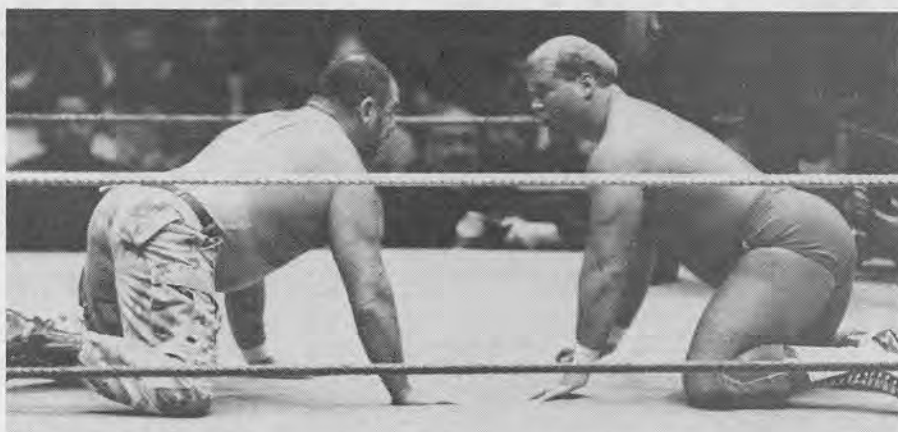
Actually, The Bushwhackers *do* have some favorite finishing maneuvers. Their double-stomachbreaker, where both Miller and Williams double-slam an opponent across their knees, has taken more than its share of victims. Also, Butch loves to grab Luke in a headlock and run his partner's cranium into an opponent's mid-section. What these men love to do more than anything else is double-team.

That's just what they did when they defeated The Brain Busters—Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson—during a tag team match at New York's Madison Square Garden in April. Even a team as skilled as the former NWA World tag team champions fell victim to the crazed style of Miller and Williams. The Bushwhackers managed to brawl Anderson and Blanchard out of their game plans and directly into the loss column.

Actually, Anderson dominated the early part of the bout by using power maneuvers to neutralize the advances of Miller. After Butch tagged out, Luke ran into the ring and grabbed at *both* Anderson and Blanchard, banging their heads together. After that, all four men battled in the ring for several minutes, which was a perfect scenario for Miller and Williams to double-team Anderson for the upset victory.

"Upset? No bloody way!" insisted Rip Morgan, the former flagbearer who continues to wrestle in the NWA. "Even though they used to be rule-breakers—a style I personally prefer—Butch and Luke always did what felt natural. Now, they feel like cuttin' up a little and havin' a good time. So what if they always eat sardines before their matches? Who cares if they like to use tactics that aren't considered scientific? They bloody win, don't they?"

They certainly do. When they first



Luke slams Blanchard (top). Butch Miller's unorthodox style has Arn Anderson totally perplexed (center). Luke stops Anderson from pinning Butch (above). The Bushwhackers aren't great tacticians, but they're winning important matches.

entered the WWF, many experts believed Williams and Miller would be incapable of doing much else than providing a humorous sideshow for WWF fans. Now, as they log victory after victory, most opponents are now realizing The Bushwhackers are not to be taken lightly.

Don't be surprised if one of these days, Miller and Williams strut toward the ring, stop outside it, and give each other a playful rub of the head. Then, before entering battle, they strip off their WWF World tag team title belts.

They may be comical, but don't laugh. It could happen! □

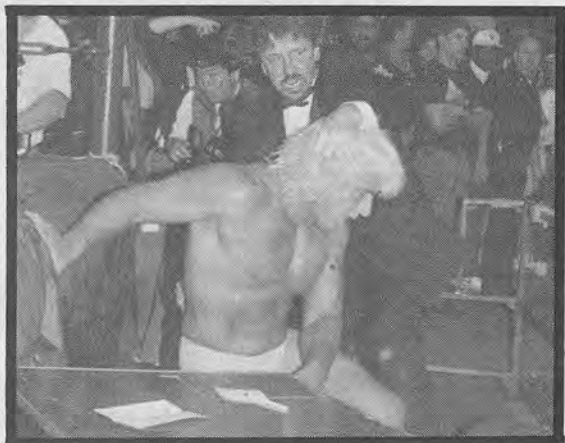
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## THE Wrestler



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Our urgent plea to **RIC FLAIR**: Don't wrestle **TERRY FUNK**!

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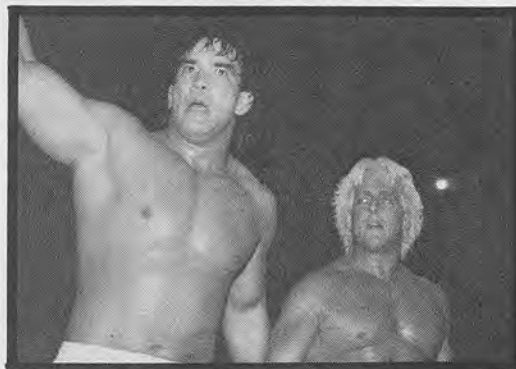
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SPORTS REVIEW

## Wrestling



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All this and much more . . .  
in the September 1989 issue of  
*Sports Review Wrestling*

**ON SALE JULY 25**



**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**I**T SHOULD'VE BEEN one of the greatest days of Ric Flair's life. On May 7 in Nashville, Tennessee, Flair won his sixth NWA World title in a stirring battle with archrival Rick Steamboat. Afterward, the two warriors shook hands in a rare display of sportsmanship. It was a memorable scene.

Unfortunately, so was the unsportsmanlike display that followed.

Terry Funk, one of three judges assigned to pick a winner in the event of a draw, entered the ring to congratulate Flair on his win. But there was more than congratulations on his mind.

"Ric Flair, I want to be the first man to challenge you," Funk said. Flair graciously refused and pointed out that there is a list of top 10 contenders he is obligated to face. "Terry," Flair said calmly, "you're not in the top 10."

One could see the anger welling up inside Funk. But then, Funk took a step back and told Flair that he was "only kidding" about the challenge. He offered to shake hands with Flair, who responded in kind.

Funk, however, didn't want to shake hands. He proceeded to savagely attack Flair, then piledrived him on the judges' table and left him lying in a crumpled heap on the arena floor. "Look at the horse-toothed, banana-nosed jerk!" Flair screamed before running away.

The prognosis for Flair was not

# ONE ON ONE



**"Explain to me, Terry, how you expect to step into the ring with me when it's been 15 years since you had my NWA World title belt strapped around your waist."**

**—Ric Flair**

good. He suffered a ruptured cervical disc in the neck and was expected to be sidelined for eight weeks. Flair's revenge would have to be put on hold; Funk would have to wait to finish off the job.

But the bad feelings linger on. Although Funk and Flair still haven't met in the ring, *Inside Wrestling* was able to bring them together . . . "One on One."

## **TERRY FUNK:**

How're you enjoying your forced retirement, you banana-nosed, horse-toothed, crippled-in-the-neck excuse for a champion? Ha!

## **RIC FLAIR:**

I'm enjoying it just fine, Terry, and you know what the best part is? Sitting back in my den, turning on the VCR, and watching the Terry Funk film festival. You

know, Terry, that *Paradise Alley* was quite a flick. Check out this review: "The dialogue is infantile." They must have been referring to you. But let me tell you one thing, Terry: That movie could be about your life, but you're stuck in the slums, and you ain't going anywhere, certainly nowhere near the hallowed halls of Ric Flair.

**TF:** And when have you seen the inside of Hollywood from anywhere else besides *Entertainment Tonight* on your TV screen? *Paradise Alley*, *Wild Side*—that was an ABC network television series, by the way—*Road House*—that's a new film. You might have heard of it. I appear with a fellow by the name of Patrick Swayze. You might have heard of him, too. For a fella who prides himself on stylin' and profilin',

# N ONE



*"How're you enjoying your forced retirement, you banana-nosed, horse-toothed, crippled-in-the-neck excuse for a champion?"*

—Terry Funk

you ain't done much of either, pardner. Oh yeah, I forgot, *Learning The Ropes*. Good show. I think it's on channel 86 in my neighborhood. *Haw! Haw!*

**RF:** We're talking about network television, pal, network television. Maybe it's on channel 86 up in the hills, but down here in the big city, we're talkin' big time. And how about *Over The Top*, Terry? If I were you, I'd track down every copy of that piece of crap and have it burned. Saying you're an actor is like saying Joe Pedicino's the Thin Man.

**TF:** Your jealousy is inspiring, Rickie, boy, so let's close the book on Hollywood, since I've got you beaten cleanly in that arena, and move to the ring, where I've beaten you pretty badly, too! And let's keep the discussion on a serious plane. Maybe you can

explain to me, seriously, how you expect to defend your pitiful claim on the title with a broken neck.

**RF:** And maybe you can explain to me, Terry, how the heck you expect to ever step into the ring with me when you're not even in the top 10, when you haven't wrestled a contender in 10 years, when it's been 15 years since you had my NWA World title belt strapped around your waist. If you think you're ever gonna get a shot at me, you're talkin' nonsense, Funk. You're gonna have to earn it first, and I don't think you've got it in ya.

**TF:** I've already proven I've got it in me. What have you proven? Nothing!

**RF:** Nothing? *Nothing?* Are you out of your mind, Funk? You're sayin' six NWA World champi-

onships in eight years is nothing? You're sayin' regaining that title from a great athlete like Rick Steamboat is nothing? You got rocks in your head, Funk? I've proven more in my career than your entire good-for-nothing family put together. How's Dory, Terry? Any hair growth reported on top of ol' baldy? The two of you were underachievers your entire careers, and now you're just trying to make up for it with one cheap grandstanding move. Well, get this through your thick skull, Funk: I am the greatest wrestler of all time. The *greatest*.

**TF:** Yeah, but remember, wrestling is a sport where *what have you done for me lately?* becomes an important question. What I've done is obvious. What you've done is . . . well, let's look at the list of contenders you've defended against since capturing that sixth title. First there's . . . uh, there's . . . hey, know what? *You ain't defended yet!* Good title reign, Ric. Keep on defending this way, and maybe you *will* hold the belt forever.

**RF:** Funny guy, Funk, funny guy. But you're forgetting one thing. Remember what they used to say about Tom Landry and the Dallas Cowboys? Give Landry two weeks to get ready for a game, and there's no way you'll beat him. Well, you've just given me two months to get ready for my next match, and there's just no way I'm ever gonna lose that belt. And how about some of the wrestlers you've been going after? I don't see a Lou Thesz or a Buddy Rogers in the bunch.

**TF:** Seems I've done a number on Brad Armstrong, Johnny Rich, and Davey Rich lately, all fine wrestlers—until they've run into me. Also done pretty well against Sting. Remember Sting? Kicked your sorry butt all over the ring at the first Clash of the Champions. Been doing more wrestling than you, pal.

**RF:** I've had enough of your garbage, Funk. I'll see you in two months, and you'd better mark your calendar, buddy. July 23. Baltimore. You're gonna be lying flat on your back.

**TF:** Only after I roll over after pinning your shoulders, pal. And it'll be my pleasure. □



## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

It's time you put your skills to good use against men like Michael Hayes and Flair. Please don't let your fans down!

ANN PETERSON  
Atlanta

### FOR LOVE OF KEVIN

I don't know if Kevin Von Erich's career is really over, but the article in the July 1989 issue went a long way toward answering many questions I had about him ("Kerry Von Erich's Shocking Confession: 'I Can't Count On My Brother Anymore!'"). I was so glad to see that Kevin is using the common sense that God gave him. If he's not feeling up to snuff, then he *shouldn't* wrestle anymore. His fans want to see him happy and healthy.

Kevin probably feels good knowing that Jeff Jarrett has stepped in for him, and that together Jeff and Kerry make one of the finest fighting forces

World Class has seen since . . . well, since Kevin and Kerry. It was also great to read that Jarrett would step aside if Kevin wanted to reform the Von Erich team. Rarely is this kind of caring shown in the too-violent world of wrestling. It was a breath of fresh air to hear three men speak in such glowing terms about one another.

I hope all three of these great men hold title belts for as long as they choose to. As far as I'm concerned, they'll always be champions.

LONI CUMMINGS  
Amherst, MA

### FLYING—AND LEAPING

Jimmy Snuka is back!

It's great to see this longtime star back in the WWF where he belongs. He was wasting too much time in the smaller federations. The last time he was in the WWF, he gave then-champion Bob Backlund some of his great-

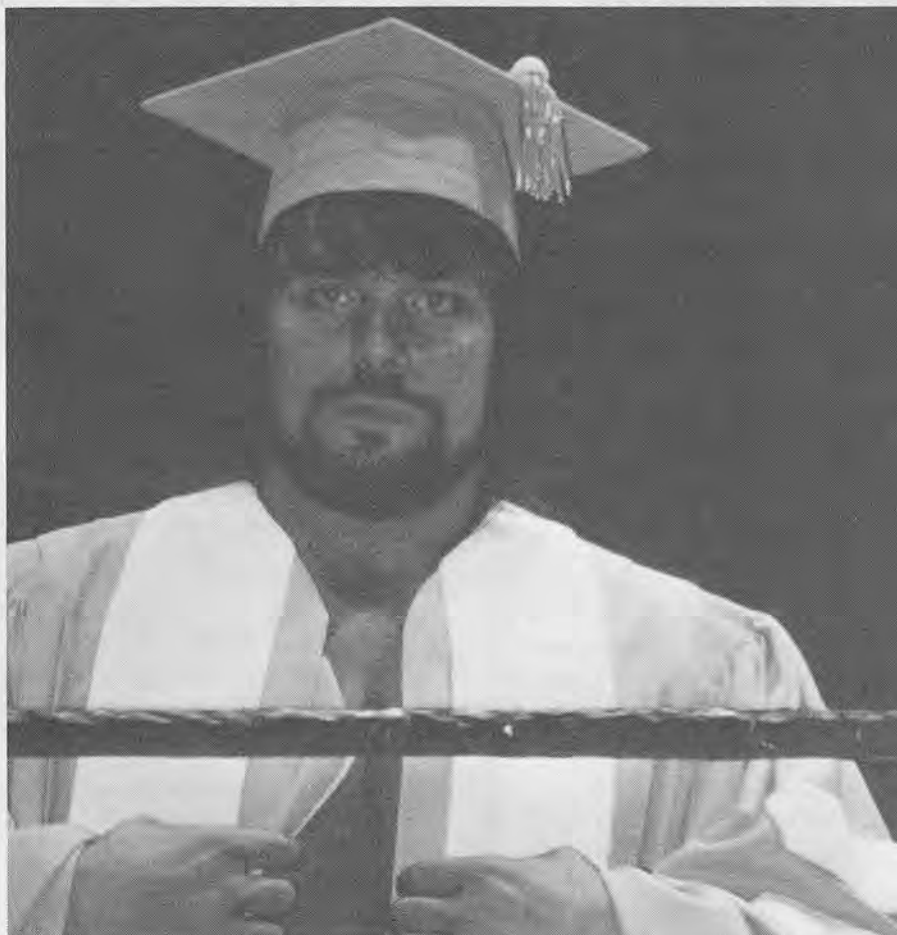
est battles for the World title. Now, he'll certainly give Rick Rude or even Hulk Hogan some of their toughest matches ever.

Now for the bad news. For some reason, "Leaping" Lanny Poffo is now calling himself "The Genius." Well, he may have intellectual smarts, but he's *still* a limited wrestler.

What Poffo needs is a manager to guide him. His new nickname and style are getting people to notice him again, but he looks like he's still going nowhere. He should get someone with experience to help him. Look at Steve Lombardi, for example. He was a preliminary wrestler before Bobby Heenan managed him, and now he gets matches against many top-flight contenders.

Do it my way, Lanny, and you'll win!

MATTHEW CHITTICK  
Peoria, IL □



"The Genius" Lanny Poffo may have a catchy gimmick, but he won't be a championship contender until he gets himself a manager, writes Matthew Chittick.

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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)



Funk (left) played Franky the Thumper in *Paradise Alley*, his first film. Funk has done several films and a television show since then, but he's always had the urge to come back to wrestling and regain the NWA World title.

everything I've given to him comes from these hands and the way I wrap 'em around people's necks. It's a noble calling, pro wrestling. I think Terry has more talent than Dory and I put together, if only he'd concentrate more."

Despite his father's disappointment in his work habits, Terry proved himself a worthy competitor, as evidenced by his rousing defeat of Jack Brisco for the NWA title in 1975. His victory enabled the Funks to become the only brother combination ever to win individual world championships. Still, Terry did have his eye on other things."

"Dad's whole life was the ring," Terry once said. "He'd come home scarred, gnarled, completely exhausted. It consumed him, and eventually killed him. The only reason we got to see him was because we wrestled, too. I want to spend time with my family. I want to see my children grow up, have dinner with my wife. I'm tired of the road; it takes a brutal toll on a man."

Shortly thereafter, Funk quit the

ring (for the first of countless times) to spend more time at home. "Inside of two weeks," he recalls, "my wife and I were at each other's throats. I realized very quickly I'm not a stay-at-home type of guy."

Fortunately for Funk (not to mention his wife Vicki), a few Hollywood casting directors were also wrestling fans. Impressed by Funk's boisterous personality and extraordinary physical skills, they invited him to audition for a part in a film they were casting. Funk captured the part of Franky the Thumper in Sylvester Stallone's 1978 movie, *Paradise Alley*. Funk was hooked on the film industry.

He compared the ring to the screen, saying, "Mentally, acting is no different than wrestling. There's the same intensity, the same need for concentration."

But with substantially fewer broken bones. Funk bounced through some minor character parts, wrote his own movie that never got developed (called *Whiskey, Twister, and Me* in 1979), and landed a leading part in an ill-

fated 1985 ABC network western, *Wildside*.

"I have no illusions about this particular career," he joked. "I'm a thug. No one's calling me to do serious drama opposite Meryl Streep. But I'm a thug with a sense of humor." And studios kept calling. Funk's latest role is in Patrick Swayze's current teen hit *Road House*. Funk plays a bouncer. "It's not Shakespeare," he said, "but I enjoy it."

End of story, right? Not quite; this script has all kinds of twists.

"Quite frankly, I don't understand what I'm doing here," Funk says from the locker room deep in the recesses of Miami's James L. Knight Center at a recent PWF card. "This is the last place I thought I'd be." Funk had just been disqualified in an agonizingly brutal match against Dusty Rhodes. With sweat and blood pouring off his scalp, his cheeks swollen from one too many bionic elbows, Funk looked remarkably like ... his father.

"It's in my blood I guess," he smiles, placing an ice pack gingerly over his eye. "I'm like Flair and Dusty, and my brother. I'm a workhorse. I love the lights, the sweat, the action. Films are great, but they're make-believe. Out there is real. No director is gonna yell 'cut.' You're on your own. What can I say? The apple doesn't fall too far from the tree, I guess."

Indeed. In the space of two days, Funk found himself in—well, in a funk. Feuding with two legends (Rhodes and Flair) in different parts of the country left the part-time grappler gasping for breath. "I was watching the recent Flair-Steamboat matches," he says, "and realized where I belong."

Can Funk, given his sporadic training habits, still compete? "It's like riding a horse," he said. "Once you learn how to master it, you never forget how. I'm back and I'm better than ever." □

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



In this 1978 match, Dusty Rhodes wrestles Superstar Graham, with Andre the Giant as special referee. More than a decade later, Dusty is back in the WWF, but now it's a much different federation. Dusty hasn't changed, though.

since heated up, and in many people's eyes, it was a war between Hulk Hogan and Dusty Rhodes. Which did you prefer? What was your style?

Rhodes has always tried to appeal to the average American. Here's a big man who drinks beer, speaks in a down-to-earth style, and loves to barbeque. He's just an ordinary guy (he's the son of a plumber) who worked hard, fought hard, and made it to the top of his profession. Rhodes is the "American Dream" because he proves that anybody can be anything they want. *Only in America, land of opportunity...*

Hogan tries to get across the same message, but it doesn't have the same impact when you're tall, muscular, blond, and look like you spend your afternoons sunning on Venice Beach. Like reality? It's Dusty. Like fantasy? It's Hogan. The same could probably be said about the NWA and the WWF.

Of course, Dusty is long gone from the NWA, and it would be

fair to say that, since he left, the federation has become much slicker. That's no coincidence. The Dusty era has been wiped out and forgotten. And Dusty's tenure in the PWF had to be unsatisfying; a man like Rhodes needs a national audience to preach to.

But the WWF? I guess this is the ultimate show of respect on the WWF's part: They're admitting that their main adversary was a worthwhile opponent. And, in a way, they're admitting that the Dusty-led NWA was pretty good after all.

As Dusty said so many times, "I am the NWA." Now he has a golden opportunity to become the WWF, too.

Okay, so maybe Dusty wrestling in the WWF is *not* like MacArthur fighting for the Germans. But there are similar comparisons in sport...

Leo Durocher managing the N.Y. Giants (that did happen).

Larry Bird playing for the Lak-

ers (that hasn't happened).

Former Boston Bruins hockey badboy Derrick Sanderson playing for the N.Y. Rangers (that did happen).

Roger Staubach quarterbacking for the Pittsburgh Steelers (that never happened).

It seems as if every year we're given more proof that there's no such thing as loyalty in sports. A Cardinals fan would never root for the Cubs, but you can bet that, for the right money, Ozzie Smith or Willie McGee would play for them. Celtics fans hate the Lakers, but Bird would suit up in gold and purple in a minute for the right money.

The only thing that separates one player from another team or one wrestler from another federation is money. Enjoy Ric Flair, Rick Steamboat, and The Road Warriors now, NWA fans. Before you know it, they could be wrestling under Vince's bigtop. Hey, WWF fans! Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage could be NWA property if Ted Turner felt like using the full power of his pocketbook on wrestling!

Very simply, the talent raids have just begun. And let's face it: Wrestlers have less allegiance than most athletes because they don't play for a team. They just happen to wrestle in a federation. Think Ted DiBiase cares where he wrestles? He doesn't, as long as the paycheck has enough zeroes in it.

This, of course, is something sports fans have had to live with for the past 10 or 15 years, and it really shouldn't bother us. Deal with reality. Enjoy your favorite athletes. Follow them from team to team. Don't expect them to stick around if the getting is good somewhere else.

If Dusty Rhodes can wrestle in the WWF, anything is possible. □

## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

end, I am shaken but usually pleased—due, as suggested, to Stu's sense of journalistic integrity. But this is the first time anyone has accused me of out-and-out prejudice, the first time anyone has brandished me as a closed-minded thug.

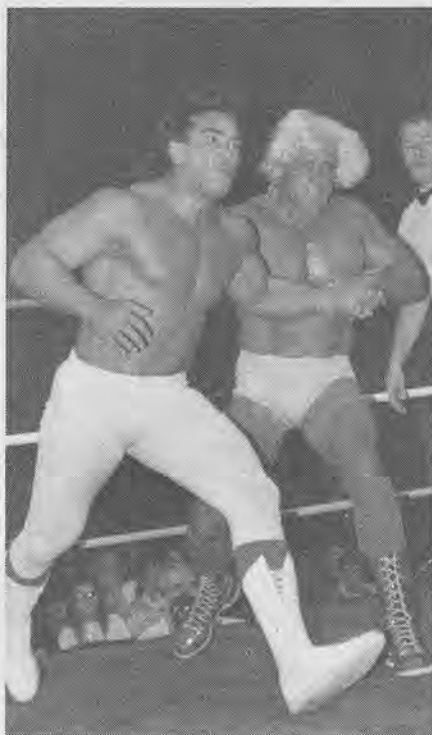
According to Saks (for whose information I am *not* a world-class racquetball player; attempts to assuage your assault with wimpy compliments will not work), my own sense of health and fitness pigeonholes those athletes I applaud and condemn. If this is so, how does Saks explain my declared admiration for the beer-swilling, chili-chomping belly of Stan Hansen? How does he account for mounds of accolades I've heaped upon the squat, lumpy form of Steve Williams? The plaudits I've rained on such eating machines as Abdullah the Butcher, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Terry Gordy?

Conversely, Saks does not attempt to determine the reasons I routinely annihilate in print the likes of Hulk Hogan, Lex Luger, and Ultimate Warrior, musclemen all.

I won't bore us all with the reasons I detest Dusty Rhodes. Rhodes is a fat pig; little can be said in defense of his physique. However, my animosity toward the "American Main Course" has nothing to do with his girth, and everything to do with a dearth of values, morals, and integrity. Are you listening, Saks? Or can't you hear from the big cushy editor-in-chief's chair at the end of the room?

### NEWS ITEM: Ric Flair Captures Sixth NWA Title

The news isn't that Flair bested Steamboat in one of the fiercest title bouts ever. The news is Flair, written off by much of the wres-



Ric Flair whips Rick Steamboat across the ring en route to a sixth NWA World title. Ellner writes that the "Nature Boy's" latest triumph only confirms his status as one of the sport's greats.

ting press, proved once again he deserves his own wing in the wrestling Hall of Fame.

"I'll be right back," Flair told me this past February in Chicago, his title belt just given over to Steamboat's hands. Of course he meant he'd be right back to claim what was his. I had my doubts. It's not that I questioned Flair's capabilities to recapture the belt. I simply felt that Flair, with his countless millions in the bank, remarkably unscathed after nearly two decades of battle, would retreat into his fortress of luxury and retire.

"The bigger the mansion, the lonelier it gets," Flair once said. He's right. Marble staircases and Olympic-sized Jacuzzis don't issue standing ovations. Flair is action-addicted; cheers or jeers, he craves the noise. His latest victory vibrated with magical eloquence as it shattered the sound barrier.

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## DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from page 33)

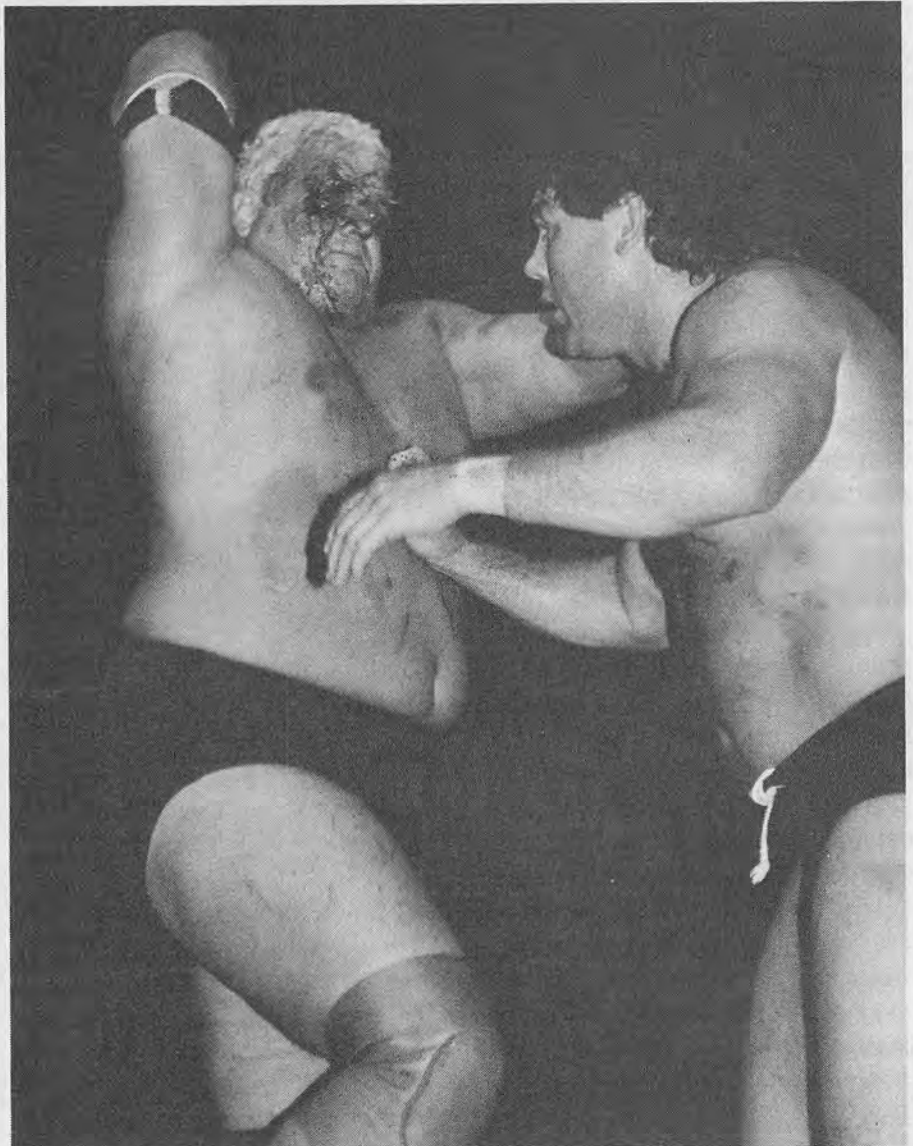
was it for me. I decided it was time for the 'Big Show.' It was time to go where the big money is. At that point, I didn't see anythin' wrong with returnin' to the WWF."

And so, Dusty is back in the national spotlight, where he's always been most comfortable. It's been difficult to believe that Rhodes was truly happy in the PWF, a federation that limited itself to arena cards in Florida and didn't have a national TV contract. So, since he wasn't going to return to the NWA anytime soon ("You can't go home again, at least not so quickly," Rhodes has said), the WWF provided the most inviting—and financially rewarding—option.

The decision also gives Rhodes the opportunity to make himself known to a new generation of WWF fans. Rhodes has become so closely identified with the NWA over the past decade that many fans forgot, or maybe never knew, that in the 1970s and early '80s, the "American Dream" was a top star in the WWF. In fact, he was among the last era of wrestlers that split their time between the NWA and the WWF, something that could never happen today.

As testament to his tremendous versatility and the vast talent he displayed at the time, Rhodes was a top contender for the world titles of *both* federations! A typical Rhodes week, in fact, would include matches against both WWF World champion Superstar Graham (the Rhodes-Graham WWF wars are legendary) and NWA World champion Harley Race. He was immensely popular in both federations, capable of selling out arenas in New York and North Carolina.

"I've shown I can make it in New York, I can make it in Boston and L.A., I can make it anywhere they send me," Rhodes said. "The WWF is gettin' a proven commodity, but I feel like a rookie startin' out all over again. This is gonna be one of the most exciting times of my career."



Dusty elbows mashes Tully Blanchard (above). Their old NWA feud could start up again very easily. The "American Dream" clamps down on former WWF champion Stan Stasiak (below). They also had a hot feud going in the WWF.



In many ways, Rhodes is perfect for the WWF. In the NWA, the emphasis has always been on outstanding scientific wrestling and aerial skills. The WWF is better suited to brawlers, although most of its top stars are powerful musclemen. But Rhodes has better stamina than any of the WWF's musclemen, and can equal anyone—including Hulk Hogan—for sheer determination.

"I'm lookin' forward to gettin' my mitts on Hogan one day," Dusty said, "but I want all the good people out there to know that I ain't got nothin' against Hogan, just because I wrestled in the NWA all those years. To me, Hulk Hogan is a great wrestler, but he's gonna have to move aside a piece and make some room for the 'American Dream.'"

The idea of having Hogan—the "Real American"—and Rhodes—the "American Dream"—in the same federation is incredibly exciting. They are two of the most popular wrestlers of all time. Rhodes is a three-time *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Most Popular Wrestler of the Year (1978, 1979, and 1987); Hogan has won the award only once (1985), but has been first runner-up for the past three years. Together, they are wrestling.

Of course, a Rhodes-Hogan match, if one ever happens, is far down the road. Besides, Rhodes will have more pressing business to handle. Some of his old NWA rivals currently make their homes in the WWF.

Tully Blanchard is there, and it's hard to imagine him not clashing with Rhodes at some point. Arn Anderson, Blanchard's Brain Busters teammate, is also no fan of the "Dream." Then there's Big Bossman, formerly known as Bubba Rogers in the NWA, and Rick Rude, another old Dusty nemesis. Of course, it'll bring back memories to see former NWA announcer Tony Schiavone interviewing Rhodes!

Dream watchers and WWF fans have much to look forward to. Dusty Rhodes is back in the WWF! A new era has begun! ☐

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## SAVAGE VS. HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)

But it was always thought that Savage was talented enough to get by without her. After all, Elizabeth doesn't help him execute his devastating flying axhandle from the top rope. Elizabeth doesn't give him his fine speed and outstanding scientific and aerial abilities. We are now, however, discovering in startling fashion exactly what she has meant to his career.

"He's a changed man, no doubt about it," said former AWA World champion and WWF commentator Nick Bockwinkel. "There's no order to his wrestling like there was back when she was his manager. We're now finding out that Elizabeth formulated the game plans, decided when he should do what, and kept him going during the crucial points of a match. She was really the straw that stirred his drink."

Perhaps the biggest blow to Savage's ego came when Elizabeth recently announced that she would support Hogan forever. Although she has not accompanied him to ringside—a situation that would be too potentially explosive for WWF arenas to contain—rumors have surfaced that Elizabeth is helping Hogan plot out his strategy for matches against Savage. This is an incredible advantage. Elizabeth knows Savage—his strengths and his weaknesses—better than the "Macho Man" knows himself.

"If it's true that Elizabeth is divulging secrets to Hogan, which is very unethical in my book, then Savage doesn't stand a chance of regaining the title," Bockwinkel said. "Just the idea that Elizabeth is supporting Hogan has to be a major blow to Savage, which is prob-

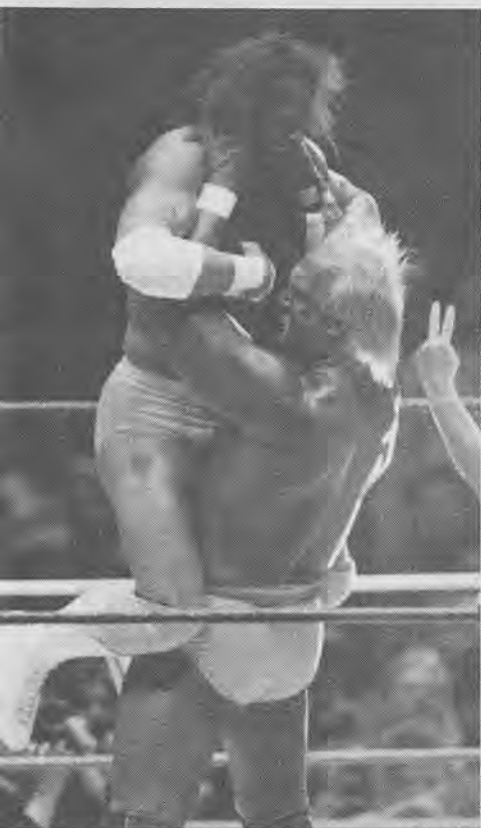
ably the reason he got Sherri Martel. This is a classic lovers' spat, but Savage is getting hurt the most."

The chances of Savage and Elizabeth ever getting back together are slim. The "Macho Man" is not one to get down on his knees and beg for forgiveness, especially in his current state of anger. Elizabeth is still reeling from the humiliation she suffered at WrestleMania V. Humiliation becomes much harder to take when it happens in front of millions of people. And besides, Elizabeth no longer needs Savage. Why would she want to put up with him again?

This leaves Savage in his current unstable position: trying to go forward but rapidly falling backward. Martel is a talented, knowledgeable manager who led Buddy Rose and Doug Somers to an

The "Hulkster" looks to smash Savage's face on the ring apron (below) and punishes him with a closed-fist punch (right). Some people are wondering whether Elizabeth is giving Hogan any secrets she learned from Savage as his manager.





Hogan's domination of Savage may only stop when Elizabeth becomes the "Macho Man's" manager again, but there's little indication that will happen.

AWA World tag team title and helped Curt Hennig during his AWA World title reign. But as a replacement for Elizabeth, she falls short ... especially in Savage's eyes.

Savage thirsts for revenge against Hogan. He also thirsts for the love of Elizabeth. Without her love and knowledge, revenge is impossible. And without revenge, peace is impossible. He will continue along the same trail he's currently following, becoming more of a raving maniac—and less of an accomplished wrestler—every day.

The "Macho Man" has lost control of himself. He has lost the love of Elizabeth. He has lost the respect of fans, experts, and fellow wrestlers. He has been humbled by Hogan several times. As the "Hulkster's" grip on the title becomes stronger, the distance between Savage and Elizabeth becomes greater.

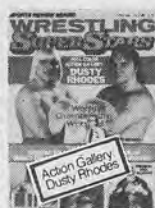
And soon, *nobody* will be able to save him. ☐

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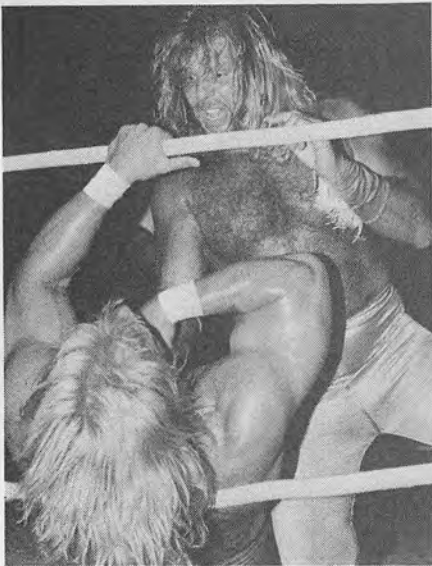
## LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 37)

Luger—with Casey's words still echoing in his ears—exacted revenge. The "Total Package" once again came out aggressively and seemed intent on destroying Hayes. Disaster almost struck, however, when Hayes illegally grabbed onto Luger's trunks for a near fall.

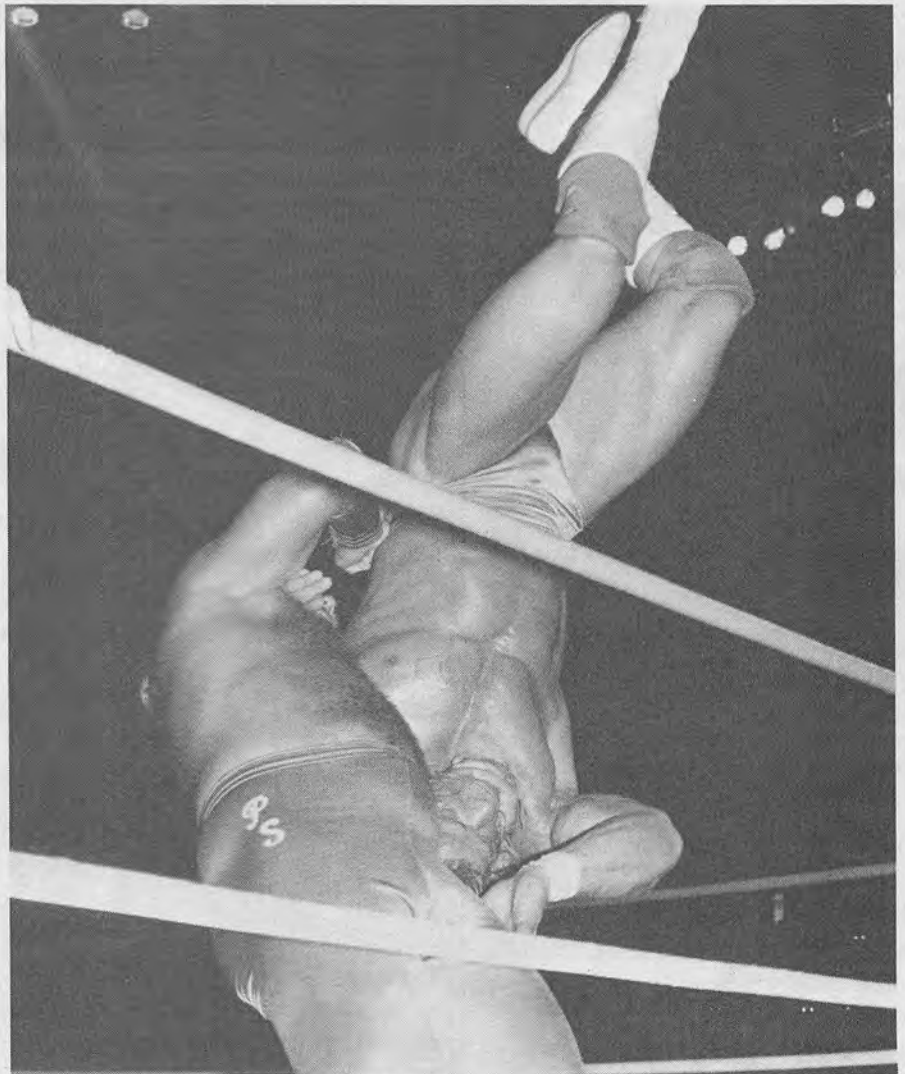
Luger, however, was not to be beaten. He managed to grab onto Hayes trunks and reversed the pin for the three-count. Very suddenly, Luger was anything but a loser. He was a three-time NWA U.S. champion.

So how did this turn of events strike Casey, the man who ignited Luger in the first place? "He's *still* a loser," Casey said. "You're talking about a guy with all the raw talent in the world plus size, and he's never won the World title. How many times has he come close to beating Flair and then choked? You're telling me he didn't

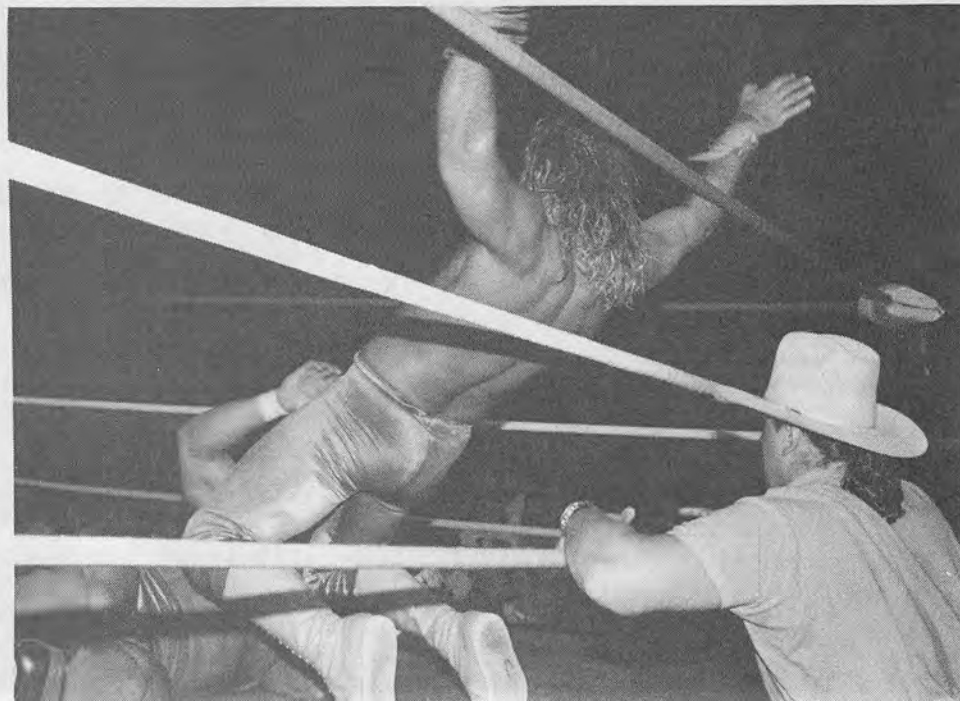


take the apple back in December or last year in Baltimore? All I know is that he's done a lot less with his raw talent than I've done with mine. That's a fact."

It is, however, a debatable fact. Because Luger has been in the spotlight since he was a rookie, people think he's been around a lot longer than he really has. But Luger has wrestled professionally for less than five years and didn't arrive in the World Championship area until January 1987. As a three-time U.S. champ, he is at virtual-



Hayes throttles Luger on the ropes (left) and suplexes him (above). Hayes needed Terry Gordy's interference to capture the U.S. belt from Luger (below). Spurred by some choice words from Steve Casey, Luger got the title back.



ly the same stage of development as Ric Flair was after five years.

"I have a lot of respect for Lex Luger," Flair said. "He's wrestled me hard many times and the fact that he hasn't been able to beat me shouldn't be held against him. Not too many people have been able to beat me, and Luger's a bit young to be World champion. I stopped wrestling him because he had enough chances. More title shots wasn't going to change things. He needed to change himself and progress a little more as a wrestler."

Whether Luger's apparent change of attitude makes him a better wrestler remains to be seen, but his comments after regaining the title are telling: "The days of Mr. Nice Guy are over," he said. "From here on out, you people are gonna be seeing a new Lex Luger. That means no taking it easy, no signing autographs, no following every rule to the letter. That's gotten me nowhere. I'm gonna go after what I want, and I'm gonna get it. I don't have time for nonsense anymore."

For his entire career, Luger has fallen into one of two modes. He's either been a fan favorite without killer instinct, or a rulebreaker with killer instinct but no direction. He was used by J.J. Dillon as a member of The Four Horsemen, but switched to a more laid-back, defensive style when he left the Horsemen behind. When he combines killer instinct with direction, he's deadly. That's exactly what he did against Casey and Hayes.

"You can't just not want to lose, you have to *refuse* to lose," Luger said. "Nobody wants to lose, but not everybody's willing to pay the price it takes to win. You have to go a step further. When you think you've done everything possible, you have to do something more."

He changed from serious to amused, however, when asked about the Casey incident. "Casey's a thug," Luger said, "and I feel sorry for him. In retrospect, I'm glad I didn't flatten him right there in the hallway because it got me fired up. Nobody's ever said anything like that to me before."

Nor is anybody likely to call Lex Luger a loser again. □

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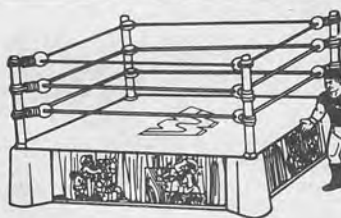
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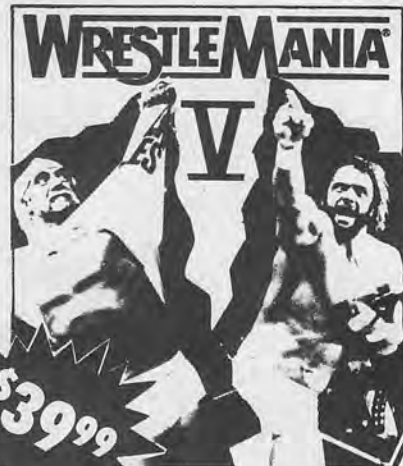
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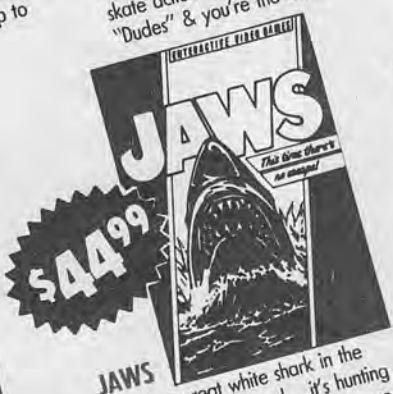
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## TOP 15

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>WWF World champion             | 4— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>No. 2 contender: WWF title | 8— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>World Class champion                | 12— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>No. 2 contender: U.S. title |
| 2— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>No. 2 contender: NWA title | 5— <b>STING</b><br>NWA TV champion                   | 9— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>CWA champion                        | 13— <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b><br>PWF Florida champion         |
| 3— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>U.S. champion                   | 6— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>WWF Intercontinental champion | 10— <b>LARRY CAMERON</b><br>Stampede N. American champion     | 14— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>AWA TV champion                 |
|  | 7— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>AWA World champion        | 11— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title | 15— <b>WENDELL COOLEY</b><br>CWF champion                |

## NWA

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN   | 4— <b>STING</b><br>260, Venice Beach, CA      | 8— <b>STEVE WILLIAMS</b><br>265, Norman, OK     | 12— <b>DAN SPIVEY</b><br>300, Tampa, FL           |
| 2— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>268, Chicago, IL       | 5— <b>TERRY FUNK</b><br>247, Amarillo, TX     | 9— <b>MIKE ROTUNDO</b><br>245, Syracuse, NY     | 13— <b>JACK VICTORY</b><br>230, Atlantic City, NJ |
| 3— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 6— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>255, Marietta, GA  | 10— <b>SCOTT HALL</b><br>290, Minneapolis, MN   | 14— <b>RICKY SANTANA</b><br>235, Orlando, FL      |
|   | 7— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>245, Tokyo, Japan | 11— <b>BRIAN PILLMAN</b><br>226, Cincinnati, OH | 15— <b>SID VICIOUS</b><br>318, West Memphis, AR   |

## AWA

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA | 4— <b>AKIO SATO</b><br>238, Tokyo, Japan            | 8— <b>MIKE GRAHAM</b><br>232, Tampa, FL            | 12— <b>SCOTT NORTON</b><br>360, Minneapolis, MN |
| 2— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN   | 5— <b>KEN PATERA</b><br>256, Portland, OR           | 9— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>310, Parris Island, SC | 13— <b>MIKE GEORGE</b><br>265, St. Joseph, MO   |
| 3— <b>TOM ZENK</b><br>237, Minneapolis, MN     | 6— <b>DERRICK DUKES</b><br>232, Boston, MA          | 10— <b>STEVE KEIRN</b><br>235, Tampa, FL           | 14— <b>WAYNE BLOOM</b><br>266, Minneapolis, MN  |
|  | 7— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>248, Cape Town, S. Africa | 11— <b>TOMMY JAMMER</b><br>240, San Diego, CA      | 15— <b>MIKE ENOS</b><br>252, Minneapolis, MN    |

## WWF

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>BRUTUS BEEFCAKE</b><br>273, San Francisco, CA | 8— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>235, Minneapolis, MN | 12— <b>GREG VALENTINE</b><br>243, Seattle, WA       |
| 2— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN   | 5— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>280, Queens, NY       | 9— <b>JOHN STUDD</b><br>364, Los Angeles, CA  | 13— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France |
| 3— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL   | 6— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY    | 10— <b>JIMMY SNUKA</b><br>250, Fiji Islands   | 14— <b>BAD NEWS BROWN</b><br>280, New York, NY      |
|   | 7— <b>DINO BRAVO</b><br>246, Montreal, Quebec       | 11— <b>TED DiBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NE      | 15— <b>HAKU</b><br>274, Tonga                       |

## MOST POPULAR

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Popular       | 4— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Popular  | 8— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Popular         | 12— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Popular   |
| 2— <b>STING</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Popular            | 5— <b>BRUTUS BEEFCAKE</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— <b>ERIC EMBRY</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Popular        | 13— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Popular   |
| 3— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Popular  | 10— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Popular     | 14— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>Last month: No. 15 Most Popular |
|  | 7— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Popular   | 11— <b>KERRY VON ERICH</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 15— <b>CARL STYLES</b><br>Last month: unrated                |

## MOST HATED

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Hated  | 4— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Hated       | 8— <b>TED DiBIASE</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Hated     | 12— <b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Hated |
| 2— <b>TERRY FUNK</b><br>Last month: unrated             | 5— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Hated | 9— <b>DYNAMITE KID</b><br>Last month: unrated              | 13— <b>BIG STEEL MAN</b><br>Last month: unrated           |
| 3— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 6— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Hated     | 10— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Popular | 14— <b>GARY YOUNG</b><br>Last month: unrated              |
|   | 7— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Hated   | 11— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Hated   | 15— <b>TOM PRICHARD</b><br>Last month: No. 15 Most Hated  |

## TAG TEAMS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1— <b>DEMOLITION</b><br>WWF World tag team champions                              | 6— <b>THE BUSHWHACKERS</b><br>No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title                   | 11— <b>JACQUES &amp; RAYMOND ROUGEAU</b><br>No. 5 contenders: WWF tag team title           |
| 2— <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b><br>No. 5 contenders: NWA tag team title               | 7— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD &amp; ARN ANDERSON</b><br>No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title | 12— <b>JIMMY GOLDEN &amp; MONGOLIAN STOMPER</b><br>CWF tag team champions                  |
| 3— <b>AKEEM &amp; BIG BOSSMAN</b><br>No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title         | 8— <b>SHAUN &amp; STEVE SIMPSON</b><br>World Class Texas tag team champions          | 13— <b>CHRIS BENOIT &amp; BEEF WELLINGTON</b><br>Stampede International tag team champions |
| 4— <b>THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM</b><br>No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title            | 9— <b>RICK STEINER &amp; EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>U.S. tag team champions                | 14— <b>ROBERT FULLER &amp; BRIAN LEE</b><br>CWA tag team champions                         |
| 5— <b>MICHAEL HAYES &amp; TERRY GORDY</b><br>No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title | 10— <b>DUSTIN RHODES &amp; MIKE GRAHAM</b><br>PWF tag team champions                 | 15— <b>STEVE DOLL &amp; SCOTT PETERSON</b><br>PNW tag team champions                       |

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

For period ended June 2, 1989

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION:

**CHAVO GUERRERO**

(September 23, 1988; from Jack Armstrong; Lancaster, CA)

## ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO**

(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**TOSHIKI KAWADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI**

(September 15, 1988; from Shinichi Nakano & Shunji Cakano; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STAN HANSEN & TERRY GORDY**

(December 16, 1988; tournament final over Genichiro Tenryu & Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITSUO MOMOTA

(April 20, 1989; from Shinichi Nakano; Osaka, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 18, 1989; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: LIONESS ASUKA

(January 29, 1989; over Chigusa Nagayo; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**LIONESS ASUKA & CHIGUSA NAGAYO**

(March 4, 1989; from Mika Komatsu & Yumi Ogura; Tokyo, Japan)

## AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)

## AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

## AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEN PATERA & BRAD RHEINGANS

(March 25, 1989; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

## AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT

(January 13, 1989; from Johnny Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

## CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY

(April 7, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Knoxville, TN)

## \* CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**JIMMY GOLDEN & MONGOLIAN STOMPER**

(May 24, 1989; from Masa Chono & Mike Davis; Murphy, NC)

## \* CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ALAN MARTIN

(April 30, 1989; from Dan Davis; Montgomery, AL)

## CWA CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(March 11, 1989; from Dutch Mantel; Memphis, TN)

## \* CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & BRIAN LEE

(May 3, 1989; from Tracey Smothers & John Paul; Morristown, KY)

## \* FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: DUSTIN RHODES

(May 23, 1989; from Al Perez; Tampa, FL)

## FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

**TITLE VACANT**

(most recently held by Jim Backlund)

## \* FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**DUSTIN RHODES & MIKE GRAHAM**

(May 9, 1989; from Black Bart & Bobby Jagers; Tampa, FL)

## ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

## ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PHIL APOLLO & ERIC SBRACCHIA

(March 5, 1989; from Vic Steamboat & Joe Savoldi; Augusta, ME)

## \* IWGP CHAMPION: SALMAN HASHIMOKOV

(May 25, 1989; from Big Van Vader; Osaka, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**SUPER STRONG MACHINE & GEORGE TAKANO**

(March 16, 1989; from Masa Saito & Riki Choshu; Yokohama, Japan)

## \* IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER

(May 25, 1989; from Hiro Hase; Osaka, Japan)

## NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**THE ROAD WARRIORS & GENICHIRO TENRYU**

(December 7, 1988; via Animal's victory over Dusty Rhodes; Chattanooga, TN)

## NWA TV CHAMPION: STING

(March 31, 1989; from Mike Rotundo; Atlanta, GA)

## \* NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

## NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Mike Rotundo and Steve Williams)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: CARL STYLES

(May 1, 1989; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON**

(April 29, 1989; tournament final over Col. DeBeers & Nord the Barbarian; Portland, OR)

## PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Big Steel Man)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 19, 1989; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU**

(February 2, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Kansas City, KS)

## \* STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

## STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**CHRIS BENOIT & BEEF WELLINGTON**

(April 8, 1989; from Mahan & Vulkhan Singh; Edmonton, Alberta)

## \* U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

## U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EDDIE GILBERT & RICK STEINER

(February 28, 1989; from Kevin Sullivan & Steve Williams; Columbia, SC)

## WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

## WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Eric Embry)

## \* WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON

(April 28, 1989; from Beauty & The Beast; Dallas, TX)

## \* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ZODIAC II & CACTUS JACK

(May 19, 1989; from Jeff Jarrett & Kerry Von Erich; Dallas, TX)

## \* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(May 26, 1989; defeated Zodiac to claim held-up title; Dallas, TX)

## \* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: RIP ROGERS

(May 14, 1989; from TNT; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN

(April 2, 1989; from Mr. Sazuki-San & Mr. Pogo; Dorado, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC

(May 20, 1989; from Johnathan Holliday; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(April 15, 1989; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ABUGHADIEN

(March 4, 1989; tournament final over TNT; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIP ROGERS & ABUGHADIEN

(May 17, 1989; from Carlos Colon & Invader I; Vega Alta, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: STEVE STRONG

(May 27, 1989; from Carlos Colon; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(April 2, 1989; from Ultimate Warrior; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

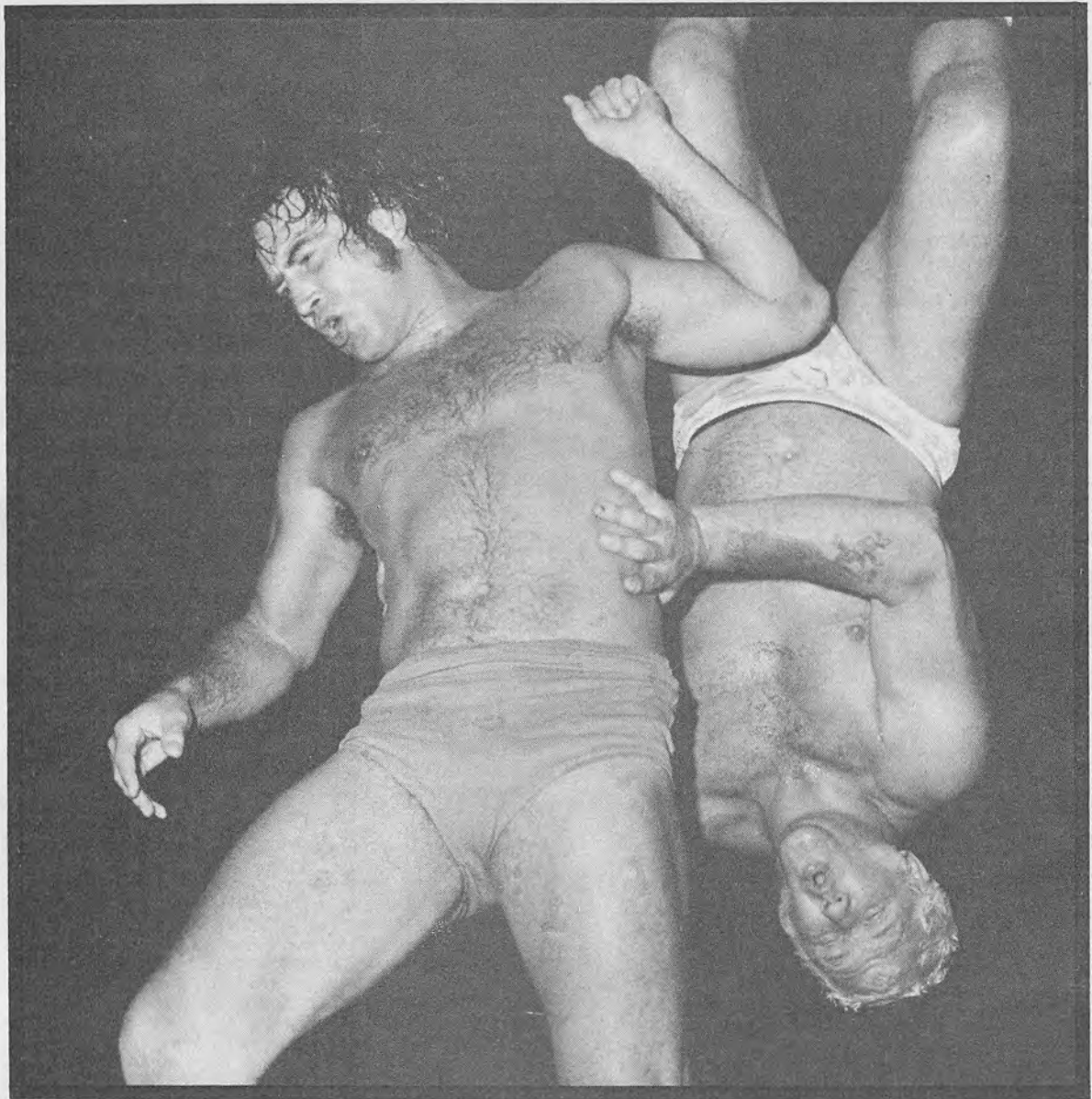
## WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Oniia City, Japan)



# ***Blast From The Past*** ***This Month In Wrestling History***

## **“THE BRILLIANCE OF BRISCO”**



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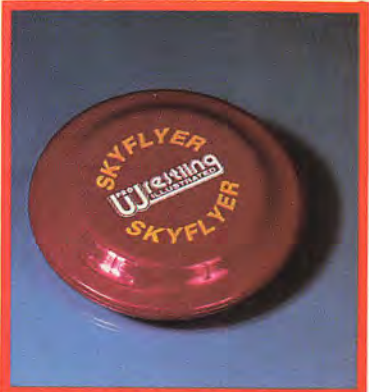
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